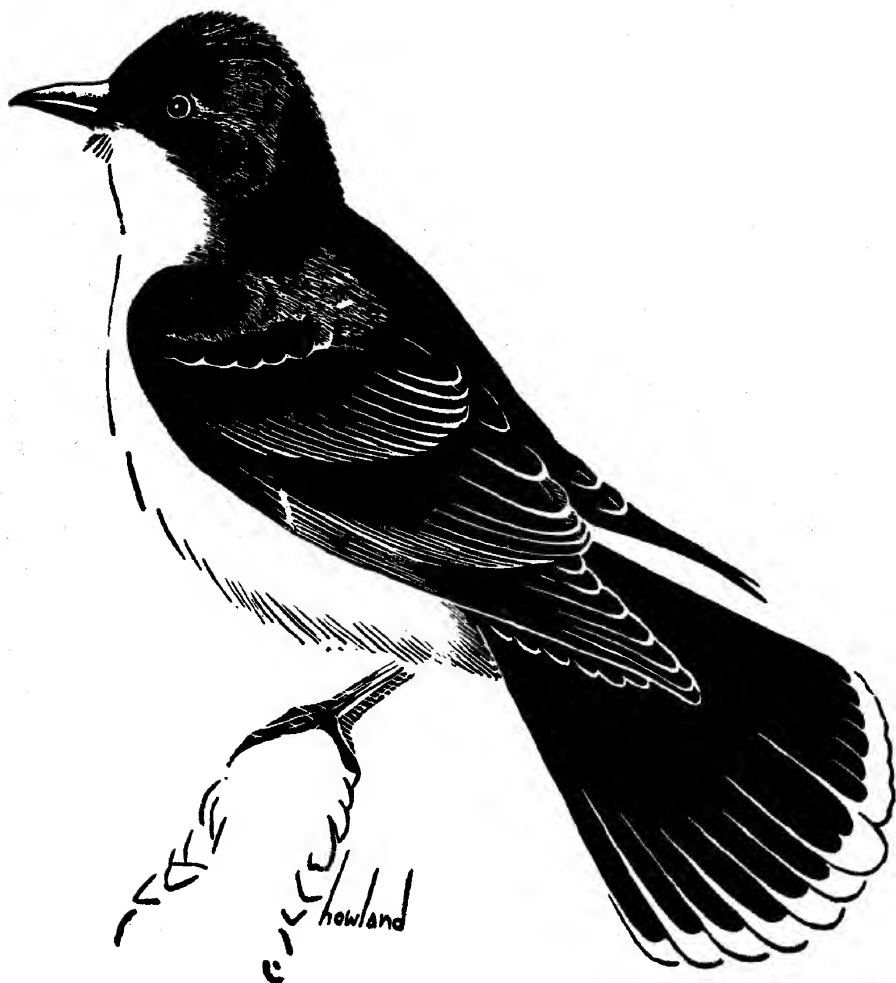


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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# The KINGBIRD

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*Fledgling Boat-tailed Grackle on Nest at Pearsall's Hassock.*  
*June 1982* *John Zarudsky*

## NESTING BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES ON PEARSALL'S HASSECK

J. D. ZARUDSKY and R. MILLER

Although Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*) have periodically been observed in wetlands in the Town of Hempstead since the early 1970's, more regular sightings have been made since 1979. Both adults and immatures have been observed during the nesting season, indicating local breeding. One of the earlier sightings was of a male recorded at Jones Beach on 12 May 1973 (Bull, 1976). On Pearsall's Hassock during the summer of 1979, two males and three females were observed on two separate occasions. On 28 June a female was reported, and on 29 June a full-grown immature was observed. In 1980, further individuals were seen at Cow Meadow, Freeport—although not during the nesting season—two females from 13 October to 30 November, and three females on 30 November. On 23 June, 1981, a female and three juvenals were observed on North Black Banks (Gochfeld, 1981). On a field trip to Pearsall's Hassock on 31 May 1982, J. Zarudsky, R. Miller, and E. Rowan saw a male and three females. On the same day, two nests were subsequently located in the vicinity of the female sightings.

Pearsall's Hassock is a Town of Hempstead designated Wildlife Refuge, approximately 153 acres in area, situated about one mile south of Bay County Park and southeast of Hewlett Bay. It was covered by dredged material during the 1950's; and vegetation consists primarily of *Phragmites*, Northern Bayberry, birches, and poplars. Colonies of herons, including Black-crowned Night-Herons, Little Blue and Green-backed Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Glossy Ibises, and Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls regularly use the area for nesting.

The Boat-tailed Grackle nests were located in a plant association of Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*) on the edge of a heron colony in the southwest corner of the island. During weekly visits to the island by J. Zarudsky to observe nest development and success, two other nests were located (Table 1). Nest No. 1 was approximately 30-40 feet away from nests Nos. 2, 3 and 4, located in the same bayberry thicket, and they were spaced about 6-7 feet apart from one another. Nest No. 4 was not used for egg laying.

To further identify nesting species, egg diameter and length were measured by calipers on eggs in nests Nos. 1 and 2. These eggs fall

within the range given by Harrison (1975) and are listed below.

Egg sizes from nests Nos. 1 and 2.

Nest No. 1 — 32.7 x 22.0 mm

33.0 x 22.0 mm

32.4 x 22.2 mm

Nest No. 2 — 32.9 x 23.2 mm

33.5 x 23.6 mm

Dimensions of Nest No. 1 were approximately 7" x 7" outside diameter, 3-3/4" x 4-3/4" inside diameter, and 4" inside cup depth. During visits to the nesting area, the distinct call of the male could be heard on nearly every occasion.

Earliest juvenals were observed during the week of 3 June. The latest fledgling remaining was one in Nest No. 2 during the week of 1 July (Fig. 1).

With these recent observations and those made in 1981 by Gochfeld on North Black Banks, breeding is confirmed for Breeding Bird Atlas Block 6049B.

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- John D. Zarudsky—Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways, 1 Parkside Drive, P.O. Box J, Point Lookout, New York 11569
- Richard F. Miller—460 Old Town Road, Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776

TABLE 1  
OBSERVATIONS ON NEST DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT SIGHTINGS

Date	Nest #	Vegetation	No. Eggs or Juvenals	Hgt. of Nest Above ground**	Date	Adults Observed	
5/31	1	Elder	3 eggs	4.5 feet		M	F
6/3		Bayberry	3 eggs		5/31	1	3
6/9			3 juv. newly hatched		6/3	1	
6/15			2 juvenals		6/9	1	
6/22			1 juv. (left nest)		6/15	2	3*
7/1			0		6/22		
5/31	2	Bayberry	0	4.2 feet	7/1	1	1
6/3		<i>Phragmites</i>	2 eggs				
6/9			3 eggs				
6/15			3 eggs (one egg unsuccessful)				
6/22			1 egg, 1 juv. newly hatched				
7/11			1 juvenal				
6/3	3	Bayberry	2 juvenals	4.8 feet			
6/9			2 juvenals				
6/15			2 juvenals				
6/22			0				
7/1			0				
6/3	4	Bayberry	0	4.5 feet			
6/9			0				
6/15			0				
6/22			0				
7/1			0				

\*\* To inside bottom of nest cup

\* Also observed feeding in the marsh

(Data for nests numbered 1, 2, & 3 recorded for the North American Nest Record Program)

## TRENDS IN THE STATE LIST OF NEW YORK BIRDS

KENNETH P. ABLE

During the past two decades there has come a creeping awareness that the epicenter of North American field ornithology has shifted from the east to the west coast. The list of astonishing records emanating from the deserts and coast of California seems endless. Perusal of the regional reports in *American Birds* suggests that the state lists of California and other southwestern states are growing like Topsy. The East, especially the Northeast, seems stagnant by comparison. What are the facts in the matter?

An interesting recent article by Joe Jehl (1980) in *Western Birds* provides some hard figures. The California state list at the end of 1979 was approximately 535 species, second only to Texas. Jehl analyzed additions to the list on a yearly basis beginning in 1944. From 1945-1959 the list increased by an average of 1.6 species per year, and the trend was quite linear. From 1960-1979, the trend was also linear, but with a much greater slope, with species being added at a rate of 4.0 species per year. Interestingly, there is no indication that the rate is slowing down, as it inevitably must because the pool of species that may be added is finite and presumably the easiest additions should be made early on. Jehl attributes most of the huge increase in the rate of growth of the list to the revolution in birding methods kindled by Guy McCaskie around 1960. These methods included a systematic, informed search for vagrant birds in places where logic suggested they might concentrate, such as coastal points and desert oases, and frequent pelagic trips.

Jehl's article prompted me to convert my vague notion into some hard numbers for New York. By my count, the New York State list was approximately 432 species at the end of 1981 (the official state list compiled by NYSARC [1981] stood at 423 species at that time; I have included some records which have not to date been evaluated by NYSARC, and I have excluded single-observer sight records where they constitute the only basis for occurrence of a species in the state). In 1944 the list contained 397 species; during the next 36 years, 35 species were added (Bull, 1974, 1976, and scattered other sources), an increase of about 9%. Each of the additions is tabulated by year in Table 1 and the growth curve is plotted in Fig. 1. The general trend is quite linear. On average we have been adding about one species per year to the list. Viewed by decades, however, some suggestions of currents within this trend emerge. Between 1945-1955, 12

species were added; between 1955-1965, 11 species were added; and between 1965-1975, only 7 additions were made. This seems to point to a slowing of the growth rate. In fact, during the period 1954-1962, 14 species were added in 9 years, including a year with four new species (1954) and two years in which three new species were logged (1959, 1962). The rate of about 1.5 species per year during that period contrasts slightly with the remarkably consistent one species of recent years.

From whence have the new species probably come? Table 2 shows the probable origin of the 35 species new to New York since 1944. It is clear that western North America has been the predominant source area; that trend has persisted over the whole period I have examined. As we shall see, many active observers expect this pattern to persist.

With this background we can return to a comparison with California. Over the past two decades that state has been adding new birds at an annual rate about four times that of New York; in terms of percentage increase over the period 1944 to present, California has seen a 24% increase, New York a 9% increase. Several factors are probably responsible for these differences, 1) California has about three times the area of New York, spans a tremendous breadth of latitude, and has much greater habitat diversity. On these grounds alone one would expect a much larger species list. 2) Field ornithology in New York has a much longer history than in California. Because new species are drawn from an ever decreasing pool of potential additions, new discoveries should be made more frequently in the earlier stages of exploration. This surely accounts for at least part of the large difference in percentage increase. 3) California is deriving new species from larger source pools than is New York. Between 1960-69, a large majority (59%) of California's new species were of North American origin. But during the next decade, the North American contribution dropped to 32%, with Arctic/Asian, Mexican and pelagic source areas contributing significant amounts (20-26%). While New York continues to derive most of its additions from the relatively small North American pool, California is tapping two very large faunas, Arctic/Asian and Mexican.

Given these inherent inequalities, could a revolution in field methods and intensity of coverage, such as that launched by McCaskie, bring New York on a par with California? Probably not, but our knowledge of bird distribution in the state could hardly be retarded as a result, and there may be some virtue in considering what new species are most likely to be found. After all, an informed observer

aware of the possibilities and probabilities really is more likely to discover rare birds. On the west coast, it is common practice to spend large amounts of time and effort in a premeditated search for rare birds. In that spirit I conscripted several active New York State birders (members of NYSARC and the holders of the largest state lists) to make predictions concerning the next ten species to be added to the New York list (Table 3). At the current rate, that amounts to looking into the crystal ball for ten years into the future. All sorts of conscious and unconscious biases enter into the construction of such lists. Among them would be conspicuousness and ease of identification of species, estimates of coverage of the various areas of the state, predicted frequency of pelagic trips, etc. Given all these variables, there is a strong consensus that western North America will continue to be the predominant source of new species in New York. Because of the large number of shorebird species mentioned on the lists, Arctic/Asian species are predicted to assume a more prominent position than recent past history indicates, although the difference between the two columns in Table 2 is not statistically significant (Chi Square test). The Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) appeared on all five lists; the Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) and Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) on four; and the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) on three. This last species was documented in July, 1981, after these lists were made.

At the suggestion of Paul Buckley, some consultants also took a shot at predicting the next five species to be documented as breeders in the state. For some reason this was deemed to be a harder task than predicting additions to the state list (thus only five species predicted). With the Breeding Bird Atlas project underway, we may be able to soon put these forecasts to the test.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Paul Buckley, Tom Davis, Paul DeBenedictis, and Bob Paxton for not taking themselves too seriously to play this game with me. However their predictions turn out, they will at least have to think twice before proclaiming "long overdue!" on the occasion of the next addition to the state list. Joe Jehl's article provided the initial stimulus for this exercise and Paul Buckley hounded me to finish it once I had begun.

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TABLE 1

Species recorded for the first time in New York  
during the period 1944-1981, by years.

1945		1961	
1946	Bar-tailed Godwit	1962	Fulvous Whistling-Duck
1947	Townsend's Warbler		Greenshank*
	Brewer's Sparrow*		Green-tailed Towhee
1948	Western Meadowlark	1963	Red-billed Tropicbird
1949		1964	
1950	Bridled Tern	1965	Brambling*
	Swainson's Warbler	1966	Brewer's Blackbird
1951		1967	
1952		1968	Monk Parakeet
1953	White-faced Storm-Petrel	1969	
1954	Cattle Egret	1970	Ash-throated Flycatcher
	Lewis' Woodpecker*	1971	Northern Fulmar
	Boat-tailed Grackle	1972	
	Golden-crowned Sparrow*	1973	Fieldfare
1955	Tufted Duck	1974	Mountain Bluebird
1956			Smith's Longspur
1957	Sandwich Tern	1975	
1958		1976	
1959	Redwing	1977	Anhinga
	Bell's Vireo	1978	California Gull
	Black-headed Grosbeak	1979	Mississippi Kite
1960	Yellow-nosed Albatross	1980	Painted Redstart
	Smew	1981	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

\* Species not yet included in the official New York State list compiled by NYSARC.

TABLE 2

Probable source areas of species recorded for the first time in New York State during the period 1944-1981. Allocation of some species was necessarily arbitrary.

Source Area	Added 1944-1981	Predicted 1981-
Western North America	15 (43%)	17 (57%)
Europe	7 (20%)	4 (13%)
Southern United States	6 (17%)	2 ( 7%)
Pelagic	5 (14%)	2 ( 7%)
Arctic/Asian	1 ( 3%)	5 (16%)
Introduced	1 ( 3%)	-- --

TABLE 3

The predicted next ten additions to the New York State List in descending order of likelihood.

P. A. Buckley	T. H. Davis	P. DeBenedictis	R. O. Paxton	K. P. Able
Mew Gull	Mew Gull	Groove-billed Ani	Rufous Hummingbird***	Mew Gull
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*	Rufous-necked Stint	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*	Spotted Redshank	Rufous-necked Stint
Western Wood-Pewee	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*	Rufous-necked Stint	Mew Gull	Rufous Hummingbird***
Spotted Redshank	Black-browed Albatross	Black-tailed Godwit	Common Ground-Dove	Black-tailed Godwit
Great-tailed Grackle	Garganey	Vermilion Flycatcher	Rufous-necked Stint	Spotted Redshank
Rufous-necked Stint	Virginia's Warbler	Hammond's Flycatcher	Black-tailed Godwit	Ross' Gull
Harcourt's Storm-Petrel	Little Stint	Harcourt's Storm-Petrel	Hermit Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
Ross' Goose	Ross' Gull	Band-tailed Pigeon	Black-chinned Sparrow	Common Ground-Dove
Lazuli Bunting	Black-throated Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting	Hammond's Flycatcher	Rock Wren
Ancient Murrelet	Spotted Redshank	Reddish Egret	Sprague's Pipit	Prairie Falcon

The predicted next five documented breeding species in descending order of likelihood.

White-faced Ibis	Wilson's Phalarope	Boat-tailed Grackle**	Royal Tern
Wilson's Phalarope	Blue Grosbeak **	Black-necked Stilt	Blue Grosbeak **
Black Vulture	Royal Tern	Yellow Rail	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Blue Grosbeak **	Manx Shearwater	Royal Tern	White-winged Crossbill
Brewer's Blackbird	Black Vulture	Manx Shearwater	Horned Grebe

\* These lists were made up in April, 1981, prior to the first occurrence of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in the state in July, 1981.

\*\* The Boat-tailed Grackle and Blue Grosbeak have been confirmed in New York State since this list was completed.

\*\*\* The NYSARC has assigned *Selasphorus* genus to the bird discovered by Geoffrey Carleton on 3 Sept 1980 (*Kingbird* Vol. 31, No. 1, p. 3), having determined it was not possible to identify as to the species.

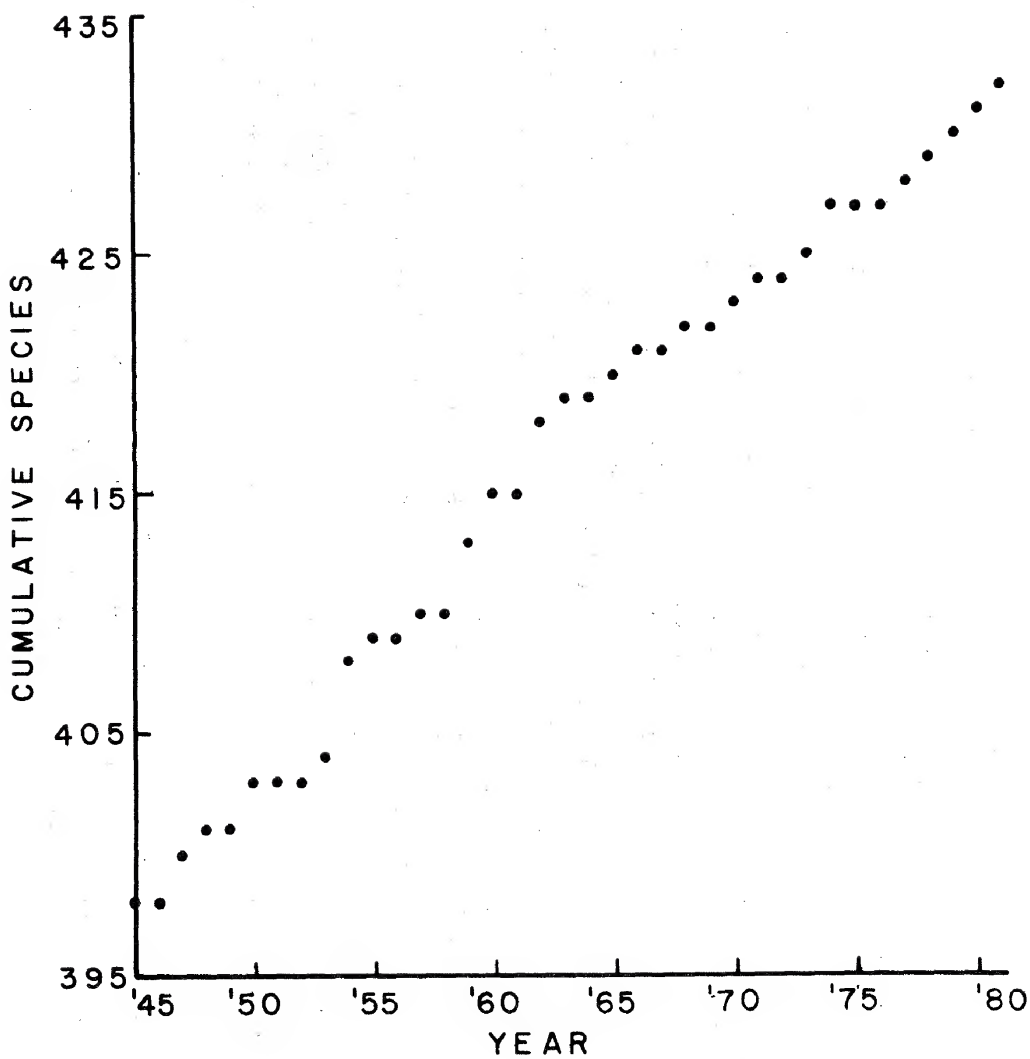


Fig. 1. The cumulative number of species recorded in New York State, 1944 to present, plotted by years.

## INSECTIVORY BY THE BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET IN SOUTHERN NEW YORK

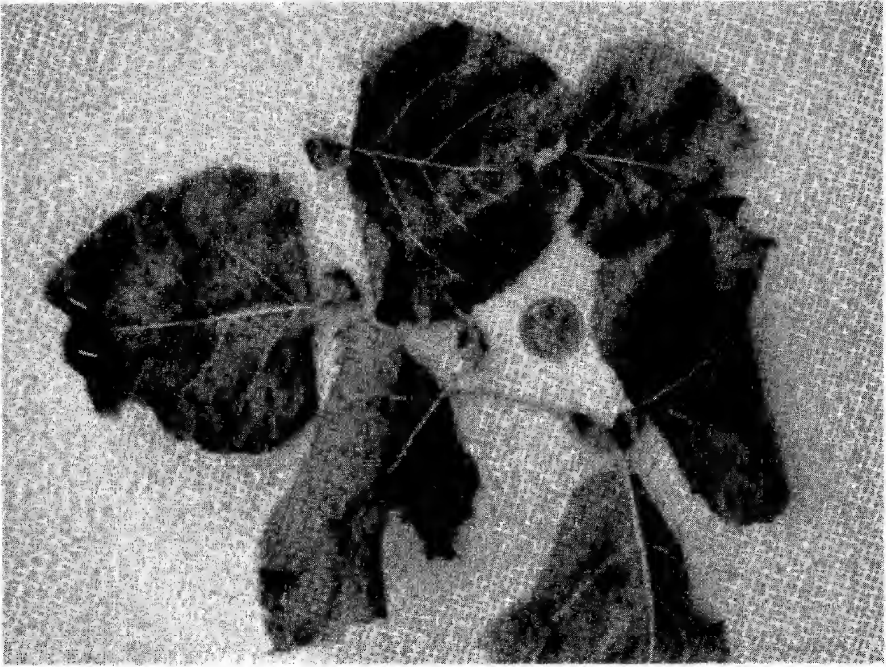
ROBERT E. SCHMIDT and MARK T. MATTSOON

The Black-hooded Parakeet or Nanday Conure (*Nandayus nenday*) is native to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay (Forshaw, 1978, p. 407) but it has escaped into the wild in the New York metropolitan area over the last 20 years (Bull, 1973 and Roscoe, *et al.*, 1976). Bull (1973) reported nesting attempts in New Jersey and a fledgling was seen in Westchester Co., New York, in May 1980 (T. Burke, pers. comm.).

We observed a flock of seven individuals on several occasions during early morning and late afternoon in September 1980 in the town of Buchanan, Westchester County. The parakeets occupied Eastern Cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) where they actively climbed or flew from branch to branch or tree to tree. The birds cut leaves off at the base of the petiole, manipulated the leaves briefly, and then dropped them. We could not observe this activity in detail because the birds would not allow us to approach within 20 m and we were without binoculars. However, the fresh-fallen cottonwood leaves either had the petiole chewed off or an intact petiole with an aphid gall (*Pemphigus populitransversus*) attached. The leaves themselves were not chewed. Each gall was sliced open, we presume by the birds (Fig. 1), and the insects completely or partially removed.

Black-hooded Parakeets are primarily herbivores, feeding on palm nuts (Wetmore, 1926, p. 198) and other seeds, fruits, nuts, and berries (Forshaw, loc. cit.). In their native range they can be agricultural pests (Steinbacher, 1962) which has caused concern about possible economic damage in the United States. Its insectivorous habits, documented here, suggest that it might also be at least marginally beneficial.

We thank John Bull and James Slater for reviewing the manuscript, John Bartels for identifying the aphid, and Kathleen Schmidt for providing literature.



*Fig. 1. Eastern Cottonwood leaves with aphid galls sliced open by foraging Black-hooded Parakeets. Leaves collected in Buchanan, New York, September 1980.*

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## NESTING OF THE RED CROSSBILL ON LONG ISLAND

GILBERT S. RAYNOR

The discovery of four nesting attempts by the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on Long Island in 1982 prompted a review of earlier records. Although the species typically breeds in boreal forest, it is noted for its erratic movements, changes in breeding areas, and sporadic winter incursions southward. Some of these movements have been followed by nesting attempts south of the normal breeding range. As given by the A.O.U. Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union, 1957) this includes the region south to central Ontario, southern Quebec and Newfoundland and in the mountains to Tennessee and North Carolina.

Griscom (1923), Cruickshank (1942) and Bull (1964) all reported an 1883 nesting at Miller Place, Long Island, discovered by Arthur Helme. The two latter authors also mention an 1875 record from Riverdale, Bronx County, the only known breeding record in the southeastern part of the state outside of Long Island. Breeding in the central and southern New Jersey pine barrens has also been documented (Bull, 1964).

During the fall and winter of 1963-64, a large flight of Red Crossbills reached Long Island and other parts of the east coast. Carleton (1964) reported "after their tremendous fall flight, Red Crossbills remained plentiful on Long Island in the early winter." The editors of the Northeastern Maritime Region and the Middle Atlantic Coast Region in the same issue of *Audubon Field Notes* also reported a massive flight.

On 2 April 1964, Dennis Puleston and the writer observed a pair of Red Crossbills building a nest on a horizontal limb of a Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) about 35 feet above the ground along the headwaters of the Peconic River near the eastern edge of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, Suffolk County. The female was observed breaking off dead twigs and carrying at least ten to the nest in a 10-to-15 minute period of observation. Two additional Red Crossbills were seen farther along the river and another pair observed about a mile west on the same date. On 7 April, the nest site was found abandoned, with no sign of the nest. This record was reported by Bull (1970) as near Yaphank.

That same season, a nest was found on the Radio Corporation of America property, in typical Pitch Pine woods, south of Riverhead

by Lee Taylor. Both adults were seen at the nest and several presumed flying young were seen in the vicinity later. The exact dates were not recorded and this record has not previously been published. On 30 May 1964, the late LeRoy Wilcox observed a singing male at Hunter's Garden, about four miles southwest of Riverhead. This area is also dominated by Pitch Pine growing on morainal hills. Thus, the large 1963-64 flight was followed by two known nesting attempts and possibly more. However, late northbound migrants are not uncommon in May and Bull (1964) apparently rejected a number of supposed breeding records based only on birds present on late dates.

According to Bull (1976), Red Crossbills were observed at Connetquot State Park (formerly Southside Sportsmen's Club) in Oakdale during the summers of 1972-76 but no evidence of breeding was obtained.

On 10 April 1982, David Houle found a pair of Red Crossbills building a nest at Connetquot State Park (block 6551C of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project). The nest was located about 40 feet up on the southern side of a Pitch Pine. It appeared substantially complete but the female was tearing bits of wood fiber from a nearby dead deciduous tree and adding it and grass to the nest after which she turned around several times in the nest to shape the interior. Meanwhile, the male sang softly nearby.

This nest was apparently abandoned, but on 17 April another pair, distinguished by plumage differences, was found constructing a nest about half a mile away in a similar situation. This nest was also subsequently abandoned. Both males were judged to be first-year birds on the basis of their incomplete alternate plumage.

On 12 April 1982, Emil Schwarting found a pair building a nest about 30 feet up on a horizontal branch of a Pitch Pine in an extensive oak-pine woods on morainal hills in East Manorsville (block 6852A). The birds were observed by the writer still building on 14 April. Nesting materials were gathered by the female from on or near the ground as the male followed, and appeared to consist of grasses and plant fibers for the inner lining. The male as well as the female was observed shaping the nest which was obviously nearly complete. The nest was very difficult to observe as it was embedded in numerous very dense pine branchlets, and a clear view from the ground was blocked by other trees. However, Schwarting later observed the pair copulating and on 7 May saw both birds at the nest with the female incubating. On or about 20 May, he saw the male approach the nest and judged it to be feeding young but could not be certain because of the obstructions to vision.

On 15 June, the writer observed a male Red Crossbill perched on a branch of a Pitch Pine along a dirt road near the northwestern corner of BNL (block 6752A). As the male was being watched, first one, then two and finally four short-tailed juvenal Red Crossbills descended from the tree to bathe in a puddle in the road. They were followed by the male and after a lengthy bath, all flew up to the pine and into the woods beyond. A female was not seen. This area of the Laboratory property had not been visited previously during the breeding season but it is believed that nesting occurred nearby since the young could not have been out of the nest for more than a few days. Both this male and the one in East Manorville were also in incomplete alternate plumage and were judged to be first-year birds.

Only a few Red Crossbills were reported on Long Island during the past winter of 1981-1982, and only small numbers were reported in adjacent inland regions (Paxton *et al.*, 1982 and other regional editors). Thus this number of nesting attempts following a winter without a large flight seems unusual. However, flocks of from four to 50 birds were observed at Muttontown Preserve in northern Nassau County on 21 dates from 24 December to 20 May, in old estate plantings of mixed conifers (W. E. Paterson, pers. comm.). During the period from December to mid-March, birds occurred in mixed flocks of adult males and adult females plus birds in partial adult plumage. From mid-March to May, birds were mostly in pairs and small flocks. The paired birds appeared to be in full adult plumage and were secretive. No nesting activity was observed. Winter flocks such as these may have been the source of the breeding birds found farther east on Long Island, although substantial numbers (4-21 birds) were still present at Muttontown after the dates on which nest building was observed at Connetquot and Manorville.

It appears that all of the nesting attempts were made by first-year males that had not utilized a previous breeding area and which stopped in favorable habitat on the northward migration or after wandering from a wintering area. The fully adult birds may have moved northward to their normal range. Thus, a large winter flight is not a prerequisite for nesting attempts south of the normal range, although some southward movement is obviously necessary.

In summary, it appears that the Red Crossbill should be considered a sporadic breeding species on Long Island, usually but not always in years following large winter flights, and that first-year birds are most likely to attempt nesting south of the normal range. It is likely that many more nesting attempts have occurred in the past since the oak-

pine woods and Pitch Pine barrens were seldom visited by birders during the breeding season prior to the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Appreciation is expressed to Lee Taylor, David Houle, Emil Schwarting and William Paterson who contributed their observations reported above.

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# NEST SITE COMPETITION AND POPULATION ESTIMATES OF ISLAND NESTING COMMON TERNS, RING-BILLED GULLS AND HERRING GULLS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

GEORGE R. MAXWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Interest in colonial waterbirds along the St. Lawrence River has increased in recent years due to proposed winter navigation in the St. Lawrence Seaway and to the increased pollutant load in the river system. The Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) are the most common colonial nesters in low, uninhabited islands in the St. Lawrence River along the New York border. A number of studies have increased our knowledge of the Common Tern (Austin 1949, 1951, 1956; Blokpoel 1977; Haymes and Blokpoel 1978a; Morris and Hunter 1976) and of Ring-billed Gull biology (Ryder *et al.* 1977; Southern 1974; Vermeer 1970). Most of these studies were concerned with marine or fresh-water lake colonies. Less information is available on river colonies.

## METHODS

From 5 May to 1 August 1978 visits were made to Ice and Murray Islands, Leeds Co., Ontario, between Chippewa Bay and Morristown, N.Y., to gain data on nest site selection. The 0.17-hectare (56 m x 30 m) Ice Island supported 123 Ring-billed Gull and 126 Common Tern nests. Murray Island, an 0.24-hectare (50 m x 48 m) island supported 43 Common Tern nests. Maximum elevation above the mean river level during the study period at Ice Island was 1.5 m and at Murray Island was 5.4 m. All nests on Ice and Murray Islands were marked by numbered golf tees placed in the ground next to each nest. Visits to river islands from Cape Vincent to Massena, N.Y., were made between 23 May and 22 June to determine the size of the nesting populations of Common Terns, Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nest placement on the islands was governed by the intensity of interspecific competition for nest sites. The Common Terns on Murray Island, which were free of competition from gulls, placed their nests increasingly farther from shore as the season progressed. The nests placed in the earliest week of the season were averaged 10.67 m from shore, while those built in the latter part of the season averaged 16.67 m from shore (see Table 1). However, the Common Terns on Ice Island, which had to compete with Ring-billed Gulls, showed an erratic pattern of placement from the edge to the center of the

colony. The early nests were 9.59 m from shore while the latest nests were 4.28 m from shore with erratic mean distances recorded during the total egg laying period. The terns' mean distance from shore for the season was 7.84 m. The gulls, on the other hand, with a mean of 8.87 m from shore, were closer than the terns to the more desirable vegetated portion of the island. Their nests showed a consistent pattern of increasing distance from edge to center while in competition with the terns for those nest sites. We believe that the ability of the gulls to maintain a consistent increase in distance from edge to center in nest siting, in spite of competition from the terns, while the terns could not, indicates a superior competitive advantage for the Ring-billed Gulls over the Common Terns in nest-site selection.

Measurements of the distance between nests were made throughout the nesting season on both islands. Both gulls and terns showed a compression of the nests in the colony as the season progressed and the islands became more crowded. The competition and greater density of gulls and terns on Ice Island caused severe compression of the nests. The mean distance between tern nests was 0.61 m, while the gull nests showed a mean separation of 0.78 m. On Murray Island, where no gulls nested, the tern nests averaged 3.73 m apart (see Table 1). The density of the tern nests on Ice Island was 647 nests per hectare, while the density on Murray Island was 138 nests per hectare. Vermeer (1970) found that Ring-billed Gulls in competition with California Gulls for nest sites on Island A in Miquelon Lake, Alberta, placed the majority of their nests less than one m apart. He believed the more highly competitive California Gulls forced the Ring-billed Gulls closer together.

Visits to 19 islands in Ontario and to 12 islands in New York waters indicate that the Ring-billed Gull was the most common nester on the St. Lawrence River islands in 1978. Strachen Island, Ontario, was the site of 6000 nests, with 316 nesting on 10 other islands (see Table 2). The Common Tern was the next most common breeder, with 513 nests located on 19 islands. Ice Island, Ontario, had 126 of those nests. A small island east of Sheek Island, Ontario, had the next highest concentration of nests, with 88. The Herring Gull had only 68 nests scattered on 17 islands. The largest colony, of 19 nests, was found on Black Ant Island, Ontario.

The number of young being produced on Ice and Murray Islands by the Common Tern and Ring-billed Gull was in the range reported by Haymes and Blökpöel (1978b). The Herring Gulls on Black Ant Island produced no young from 19 nests with eggs. The egg shells seemed fragile and were seen crushed in the nests. Young gulls were

noted in convulsions or were lethargic when approached. On a small island just west of Crossover Island, N.Y., only 7 young fledged from 14 nests and on Griswold and Gull Islands, Ontario, and only 8 young fledged from the 16 nests located on these islands.

Continued censusing of these islands is critical so that changes in the status of the nesting colonial water birds can be assessed. The Herring Gull is in danger from chemical contamination of its food source, the Common Tern from competition with the more aggressive Ring-billed Gull, and all island-nesting species from water-level fluctuations. During periods of high water, ice damage to the island vegetation, which is required by the terns and gulls for nest construction and protection, is a critical concern on the St. Lawrence River. Current ice damage could be exacerbated by winter shipping as proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers winter navigation season extension. Further studies are needed to understand the requirements for the continued existence of nesting birds on the St. Lawrence River.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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TABLE 1

Nest Placement of Gull and Tern Nests on Ice and Murray Islands, Ontario, During 1978.

Species	Clutch Completion Period	N	Distance from Shoreline (m) Mean $\pm$ SE (range)	Distance between Adjacent Nests Mean $\pm$ SE (range)
Ring-billed Gull Ice Island	5 May - 12 May	20	7.02 $\pm$ 0.79 ( 2.8-14.9)	0.84 $\pm$ 0.05 (0.40-1.20)
	13 May - 20 May	26	9.22 $\pm$ 0.75 ( 3.0-17.0)	0.80 $\pm$ 0.05 (0.30-1.85)
	21 May - 28 May	40	9.63 $\pm$ 0.73 ( 2.8-18.0)	0.76 $\pm$ 0.04 (0.40-1.30)
	29 May - 6 June	13	8.65 $\pm$ 0.72 ( 5.0-14.0)	0.72 $\pm$ 0.07 (0.50-1.30)
	For Year	99	3.77 $\pm$ 0.44 ( 2.8-18.0)	0.78 $\pm$ 0.03 (0.30-1.85)
Common Tern Ice Island	11 May - 17 May	29	9.59 $\pm$ 0.60 ( 4.0-14.5)	0.65 $\pm$ 0.05 (0.35-1.40)
	18 May - 24 May	52	7.56 $\pm$ 0.52 ( 1.4-14.0)	0.58 $\pm$ 0.03 (0.30-1.40)
	25 May - 31 May	7	8.90 $\pm$ 1.65 ( 2.3-13.1)	0.57 $\pm$ 0.05 (0.40-0.75)
	1 June - 7 June	10	4.80 $\pm$ 0.81 ( 2.2- 8.0)	0.74 $\pm$ 0.08 (0.50-1.20)
	8 June - 21 June	2	11.80 $\pm$ 3.11 ( 9.6-14.0)	0.53 $\pm$ 0.11 (0.45-0.60)
	22 June - 5 July	6	6.63 $\pm$ 0.71 ( 3.8- 8.1)	0.58 $\pm$ 0.10 (0.40-1.00)
	6 July - 26 July	4	4.28 $\pm$ 0.96 ( 2.1- 6.0)	0.48 $\pm$ 0.03 (0.40-0.50)
	For Year	110	7.74 $\pm$ 0.35 ( 1.4-14.5)	0.61 $\pm$ 0.02 (0.30-1.40)
Common Tern Murray Island	14 May - 18 May	10	10.67 $\pm$ 1.27 ( 7.0-19.0)	3.99 $\pm$ 0.56 (2.20-7.30)
	19 May - 23 May	9	10.93 $\pm$ 1.57 ( 5.2-17.0)	4.37 $\pm$ 0.36 (2.65-5.50)
	24 May - 2 June	5	11.20 $\pm$ 3.05 ( 5.0-19.0)	3.52 $\pm$ 0.90 (1.60-5.50)
	3 June - 12 June	6	13.83 $\pm$ 2.05 ( 9.0-22.0)	3.07 $\pm$ 0.73 (1.60-5.50)
	13 June - 27 June	3	16.67 $\pm$ 2.48 (13.0-20.0)	2.87 $\pm$ 0.10 (2.70-2.95)
	For Year	33	11.94 $\pm$ 0.82 ( 5.0-22.0)	3.75 $\pm$ 0.26 (1.60-7.30)

TABLE 2

Active colonial waterbird nests along the St. Lawrence River from Cape Vincent to Massena during 1978<sup>a</sup>.

Dates	Area	UTM Coordinates <sup>b</sup>	Herring Gull	Ring-billed Gull	Common Tern
26 May; 7, 16 June	Black Ant Isl., Ont.	4054, 49010	19	131	12
26 May; 7, 16 June	Bass Isl., Ont. (Seven Pines)	4075, 49041	0	0	2
26 May; 7, 16 June	Rock S. of Bass Isl. (Ont.)	4075, 49040	1	0	0
26 May; 7, 16 June	Scorpion Isl., Ont.	4115, 49078	1	1	1
26 May; 7, 16 June	Rock W. of Scorpion Isl., Ont.	4114, 49078	1	0	9
26 May; 7, 16 June	Rock S. of Scorpion Isl., Ont.	4117, 49077	1	2	18
-	Eagle Wing Group, NY	4119, 49004	0	0	75 <sup>c</sup>
26 May; 1, 9 June	Gull Island, NY	4146, 49015	1	0	0
26 May; 1, 9 June	Hickey Isl., Ont.	4147, 49102	0	0	1
25 May; 4, 16 June	Channel Isl., Ont.	4311, 49210	0	0	8
23, 30 May; 9 June	Lone Brother Isl., NY	4323, 49172	2	0	0
May, June, July	Ice Isl., Ont.	4335, 49229	1	123	126
23, 30 May; 9 June	Little Corn Isl., Ont.	4343, 49220	1	0	0
23, 31 May; 4 June	Griswold Isl., Ont.	4347, 49237	8	0	0
23, 31 May; 4 June	Gull Isl., Ont.	4348, 49229	8	0	0
23, 31 May; 9 June	Renny Isl., Ont.	4359, 49251	1	0	0
23, 30 May; 4 June	W. Crossover Isl., NY	4379, 49268	14	0	0
1, 9, 16 June	Navigation Light 156, NY	4385, 49282	1	0	0
1, 9, 16 June	Whaleback Isl., NY	4391, 49281	1	0	28
23 May; 1, 9 June	E. Whaleback Isl., NY	4394, 49281	2	0	0

Dates	Area	UTM Coordinates <sup>b</sup>	Herring Gull	Ring-billed Gull	Common Tern
May, June, July	Murray Isl., Ont.	4474, 49378	0	1	43
1, 9, 16 June	Bogardus Isl., NY	4477, 49377	0	0	3
24 May; 9, 21 June	Big Murphy Isl., NY	4868, 49705	0	0	17
24 May; 9, 21 June	Little Murphy Isl., NY	4873, 49706	0	4	4
24 May; 9, 21 June	Navigation Light 58, NY	4995, 49773	0	0	75
24 May; 10, 22 June	Long Sault Isl., NY	5078, 49817	0	5	0
24 May ; 10, 22 June	Small isl. w. of Sheek Isl., Ont.	5110, 49843	0	0	1
24 May; 10, 22 June	W. Bergin Isl., Ont.	5112, 49847	0	40	1
24 May; 10, 22 June	Bergin Isl., Ont.	5113, 49849	0	2	1
24 May; 10, 22 June	Small isl. e. of Sheek Isl., Ont.	5128, 49848	0	7	88
24 May; 10, 22 June	Strachen Isl., Ont.	5149, 49851	5	6000	0

a — Nest counts made on the ground during site visits.

b — Refer to U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographical maps.

c — Personal correspondence with Edward Waltz.

# REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS OF ISLAND NESTING RING-BILLED GULLS AND COMMON TERNS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

GEORGE R. MAXWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Interest in the basic biology of colonial water birds has increased in recent years as their importance as indicators of environmental change has been appreciated. The Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) nest on low uninhabited islands in the St. Lawrence River along the New York-Ontario border. We were interested in discovering if a pattern of nest placement existed in these colonies and in egg-laying dates, clutch size and nest-success rates. Most of the information available on these species is from marine or lake colonies. Less information is available on colonies situated along river systems. Several papers have increased our knowledge of the Ring-billed Gull (Emlen 1956, Ryder 1975, Shugart 1976) and of Common Tern biology (Blokpoel and Fetterolf 1978, Gochfeld 1977, LeCroy and Collins 1972, Morris *et al.* 1980, Nisbet 1973).

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

From 5 May to 1 August 1978 daily visits were made to Ice Island and Murray Island, Leeds Co., Ontario, to obtain breeding biology data. The 0.17-hectare (56m x 30m) Ice Island (Universal Transverse Mercator 4335, 49229 Chippewa Bay Quad. 7.5 min. topo.) supported 123 Ring-billed Gull and 126 Common Tern nests. Murray Island, a 0.24-hectare (50m x 48m) island (UTM 4474, 49378 Morristown Quad. 7.5 min. topo.) supported 43 Common Tern nests. Both islands were granite rock, partially covered by grasses and herbs. No trees or shrubs were present on Ice Island, whereas Murray Island had a few shrubs and trees along the edge of the island. The birds mainly nested in the grassy areas and the chicks were able to hide in cracks in the rock, under clumps of grass, and in debris washed up on shore.

All nests on Ice and Murray Islands were marked by numbered golf tees placed in the ground next to each nest. The chicks were banded with Canadian Wildlife Service metal bands when they were three weeks old.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the 161 Common Tern nests with completed clutches on both islands, 83% contained three eggs, 14% had two eggs, 2% had one egg, and 1% had four eggs. Mean clutch size on Ice Island was 2.86

TABLE 1

Comparison of Egg Laying Dates and Clutch Size of  
Common Tern Nests on Ice and Murray Islands,  
Ontario, during Summer, 1978

Common Tern Egg Laying Dates—Ice Island<sup>1</sup>

Completed Clutches	11-24 May	25 May- 7 June	8-21 June	22 June- 5 July	6-19 July	After 20 July	For Year
2 egg nests	7	2	1	4	1	2	17
3 egg nests	80	16	1	4	0	1	102
Total Clutches	87	18	2	8	1	3	119
Total Eggs	254	52	5	20	2	7	340
Mean Clutch Size	2.92	2.89	2.5	2.5	2.00	2.33	2.86
Clutches to Date	87	105	107	115	116	119	---
Eggs to Date	254	306	311	331	333	340	---

<sup>1</sup> These data were based on 119 of the 126 active nests studied. Seven nests were omitted due to incomplete egg laying data.

Common Tern Egg Laying Dates—Murray Island<sup>2</sup>

Completed Clutches	14-23 May	24 May- 2 June	3-12 June	13-22 June	After 23 June	For Year
1 egg nests	0	0	1	0	3	3
2 egg nests	1	1	0	0	3	5
3 egg nests	18	4	7	2	1	32
4 egg nests	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Clutches	20	5	8	2	7	42
Total Eggs	60	14	22	6	12	114
Mean Clutch Size	3.00	2.80	2.75	3.00	1.71	2.71
Clutches to Date	20	25	33	35	42	---
Eggs to Date	60	74	96	102	114	---

<sup>2</sup> These data were based on 42 of the 43 active nests studied. One nest was omitted due to incomplete egg laying data.

eggs and on Murray Island was 2.71 eggs. The majority (66%) of the Common Tern clutches were completed between 11 and 24 May on both islands, whereas the remaining clutches were completed during the next eight weeks. By 24 May, 314 eggs had been laid on both islands, or 69% of the total eggs (454) laid (Table 1).

Of the 116 Ring-billed Gull nests on Ice Island with completed clutches, 51% contained three eggs, 41% contained two eggs and only 8% contained one egg. The mean clutch size was 2.43 eggs. Eighty percent of the Ring-billed Gull clutches were completed between 5 and 28 May. The remaining nests had full egg complements by 11 July. Two hundred forty eggs had been laid by 28 May, which is 85% of the total eggs (282) laid (Table 2). Vermeer (1970) reported that over 90% of the Ring-billed Gulls studied on Miquelon Lake had completed clutches by the end of May.

The clutch size in both species was greater at the beginning of the egg laying period in May than at the conclusion of the egg laying period in July. Ring-billed Gull clutch size showed a significant ( $z=4.52$ )\* decrease from 2.76 during early May to 1.95 in early June. Common Tern clutch size decreased significantly ( $z=3.31$ ) from 2.92 in May to 2.42 in July on Ice Island, and on Murray Island decreased significantly ( $z=4.15$ ) from 3.00 in early May to 1.71 in

TABLE 2.

Egg Laying Dates and Clutch Size of Ring-billed Gull Nests during Summer 1978 on Ice Island, Ontario

Completed Clutches	Ring-billed Gull Egg Laying Dates <sup>1</sup>					
	5-12 May	13-20 May	21-28 May	29 May- 5 June	After 5 June	For Year
1 egg nests	0	2	0	4	3	9
2 egg nests	5	8	22	12	1	48
3 egg nests	16	20	20	3	0	59
Total Clutches	21	30	42	19	4	116
Total Eggs	58	78	104	37	5	282
Mean Clutch Size	2.76	2.60	2.48	1.95	1.25	2.43
Clutches to Date	21	51	93	112	116	---
Eggs to Date	58	136	240	277	282	---

<sup>1</sup> These data are based on 116 of the 123 active nests studied. Seven nests were omitted due to incomplete egg laying data.

\* Standard Score ( $z$ ),  $p < 0.01$  (Downie and Heath, 1970)

late June. The reason for reduction in clutch size of late nesters may be the fact that early nesters tend to be older, experienced birds and late nesters are young recruits just beginning their breeding experience. Several investigators have been able to correlate reduced clutch size and lower nesting success with late nesting young birds (Coulson and White 1958, Haymes and Blokpoel 1978, Morris *et al.* 1976).

Nests were considered successful if one egg in the clutch hatched. Nesting success for the Common Tern was 85% on Ice Island and 79% on Murray Island. The number of eggs hatched compared with the number laid or the hatching success for terns on Ice Island was 82% with 2.28 eggs hatching per nest. The Murray Island terns showed a similar hatching success of 80% with 2.14 eggs hatching per nest (Table 3). Haymes and Blokpoel (1978) reported a range of 2.36 to 2.63 eggs hatching per nest for Common Terns at Toronto Harbor, which is slightly higher than our findings. The nesting success for Ring-billed Gulls on Ice Island was 87%. Their hatching success of 74% with 1.80 eggs hatching per nest falls within the 1.18 to 2.61 range of eggs hatched per nest reported by Haymes and Blokpoel (1978) also in Toronto Harbor.

Nesting success and hatching success showed a direct relationship with nest sites for Ring-billed Gulls, but not for Common Terns. Common Terns nesting on grassy areas did not have significantly better nesting success on Ice Island ( $X^2_c=0.47$ )\* or Murray Island ( $X^2_c=0.15$ ) and hatching success on Ice Island ( $X^2_c=1.11$ ) or Murray Island ( $X^2_c=0.49$ ) than those nesting on bare areas. Ring-billed Gulls showed different relationships, as those nesting on grassy areas had significantly better nesting success ( $X^2_c=8.62$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) and hatching success ( $X^2_c=5.35$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) than those nesting on bare areas on Ice Island (Table 3).

There was a direct relationship between hatching success and clutch size, with larger clutches being more successful than smaller clutches. This was true for Common Terns but not for Ring-billed Gulls. Common Tern three-egg clutches hatched significantly more successfully than two-egg clutches on Ice Island ( $X^2_c=22.76$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and on Murray Island ( $X^2_c=9.85$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). LeCroy and Collins (1972) and Morris *et al.* (1976) reported similar observations on the influence of clutch size on hatching success in Common Terns. Morris and Haymes (1977) found no such correlation of clutch size with hatching success in the Herring Gull. Similarly Ring-billed Gulls on

\* Chi Square with Yates correction ( $X^2_c$ ). (Downie and Heath, 1970)

TABLE 3

Comparison of Nesting Success of Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls  
at the Edge and Center<sup>1</sup> of the Colony on Ice and Murray Islands, Ontario

	Ice Island						Murray Island		
	Ring-billed Gull			Common Tern			Common Tern		
	Bare Edge	Grassy Center	All	Bare Edge	Grassy Center	All	Grassy Edge	Bare Center	All
Active Nests	35	88	123	34	72	126	24	19	43
No. of nests producing at least 1 nestling <sup>2</sup>	25	82	107	44	63	107	20	14	34
% nesting success	71	93	87	81	88	85	83	74	79
No. of eggs laid	70	228	298	150	202	352	65	50	115
No. hatching	44	177	221	118	169	287	54	38	92
No. of hatched eggs per nest	1.26	2.01	1.80	2.19	2.35	2.28	2.25	2.00	2.14
% hatching success	63	78	74	79	84	82	83	76	80

<sup>1</sup> Edge nests were located from 1-8 meters from shore and center nests were 9-18 meters from shore on Ice Island. On Murray Island, edge nests were 5-12 meters from shore and center nests were 13-22 meters from shore.

<sup>2</sup> Nests were considered successful if one egg in the clutch hatched. Within one day the young chicks scattered in the colony and could no longer be identified with their birth nests.

Ice Island did not show a correlation. The hatching success for the gulls two-egg and three-egg clutches was identical (Table 4).

Hatching success was significantly better in early nests than it was in late nests for both the Common Tern and Ring-billed Gull. Common Tern nests on Ice Island with early clutch completion dates had a 95% hatching success, while nests with later clutch completion dates had a 51% hatching success ( $X^2_c=90.31$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Similar results were found for nests on Murray Island with early clutch completion dates having a hatching success of 93% and nests with later clutches having a 67% hatching success ( $X^2_c=11.32$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Ring-billed Gull nests with early clutch completion dates on Ice Island had 85% of their eggs hatch while late nests had only 72% hatch ( $X^2_c=6.66$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) (Table 5). Morris *et al.* (1976) studying Common Tern colonies on the lower Great Lakes reported similar relationships between hatching success and time of clutch initiation.

Reproductive success as measured by nesting success and hatching success showed direct relationships to clutch size with larger clutches being more successful, and to clutch completion dates with early nests more successful than later nests. These relationships were statistically significant in both colonies and for both the Ring-billed Gull and Common Tern except for a lack of correlation of reproductive success with clutch size in the gull colony on Ice Island. These findings are in general agreement with studies cited above indicating that lake and river colonies may have similar requirements for reproductive success.

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- Gerald Smith—Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Onondaga Audubon Society, Sage Creek Rd., Mexico, New York 13114

TABLE 4

Hatching related to clutch size in Common Tern  
and Ring-billed Gull colonies on the St. Lawrence River

Colony	Clutch Size	Clutches (n)		Eggs Hatched (n)		Eggs Hatched per Eggs Laid		Mean Hatch per Nest	
		Tern	Gull	Tern	Gull	Tern	Gull	Tern	Gull
Ice Island	1	0	9	0	2	0	0.22	0	0.22
	2	17	48	15	77	0.44	0.80	0.88	1.60
	3	102	59	271	142	0.89	0.80	2.66	2.41
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murray Island	1	3	---	0	---	0	---	0	---
	2	5	---	4	---	0.40	---	0.80	---
	3	33	---	85	---	0.86	---	2.58	---
	4	1	---	3	---	0.75	---	3.00	---
Totals		161	116	378	221	0.83	0.81	2.35	1.91

TABLE 5

Hatching related to time of clutch completion in  
Common Tern and Ring-billed Gull colonies  
on the St. Lawrence River

Colony	Dates	Nests(n)	Eggs Hatched (% Total Laid)	Mean Hatch per Nest
Common Tern				
Ice Island	11-24 May	87	242(95.3)	2.78
	25 May-26 July	32	44(51.2)	1.38
Murray Island	14-23 May	20	56(93.3)	2.80
	24 May-25 July	22	36(66.7)	1.63
Ring-billed Gull				
Ice Island	5-20 May	51	116(85.3)	2.27
	21 May-11 July	65	105(71.9)	1.62

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Unusual Plumage Coloration of a Rufous-sided Towhee:** On 15 May 1982, while operating the Fire Island Research Station, in Islip Township, Suffolk Co., I netted a previously banded Rufous-sided Towhee with unusual plumage coloration. This bird was mottled brown and black, and my first impression was that it was a young molting bird. When I checked the band number, 901-31889, I discovered that I had banded the bird on 17 May 1981 at the same location. At that time I had made a note that the bird was black and brown and had brown eyes and had reported it as a second-year male.

The description of the bird is as follows: the head, back, throat and upper breast, instead of being solid black, were black mottled with brown. The primaries and primary coverts were black but the rest of the wing was mottled with brown. The tail feathers were black with brown in the outer webs. There was more brown on the left side of the bird than on the right. The eyes were red. The pied coloration was present only on the portions of the bird that are solid black in a normal male towhee. Other coloration and characteristics were normal.

This bird is very likely a resident in the area of the Fire Island Research Station and further observations on any changes in its plumage may be possible in succeeding years.

Laurie Farber, 79 Martin Ct., Jericho, New York 11753

**White Ibis Observed on Lake Champlain in Clinton County:** An immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) was observed by a number of field observers at the mouth of the north branch of the Ausable River, Ausable Point Campsite (Town of Peru, Clinton County), on 12, 14 and 15 September 1982.

It was first spotted by Dr. C. Leon Harris (a biologist at SUNY, Plattsburgh) and his wife Mary Jane on 12 September 1982. It was a warm, September afternoon with excellent visibility. The bird was first observed resting among some gulls on a sand bar between the north and south branches of the Ausable River. It was observed by both Dr. and Mrs. Harris through 8 x 20 custom-compact binoculars. As they moved toward the resting area, the ibis flew to a small pool of impounded water and began to feed. They were able to come within 20 meters of the bird before it flew. On 14 September Dr. H. Klein of SUNY Plattsburgh's Biology Department observed the bird in the same general vicinity. According to his report, visibility was excellent in midafternoon. The bird was feeding about 100 meters distant. Dr. Klein was using a Bausch and Lomb Zoomscope (15x - 60x). He particularly noticed the flesh colored decurved beak and the white underparts.

On 15 September, I took my field ornithology class to the site at 7 a.m. It was dull, overcast, and cool, and it rained off and on, hard at times. The bird was observed for nearly two hours by myself and eleven students. We had 7 x 35 and 7 x 50 binoculars and a Bausch and Lomb spotting scope with a 30x

eyepiece. The bird remained in a small shallow pool, feeding continuously at a distance of 75 meters. Everyone had several excellent looks and it was still feeding when we left the area. Its plumage appeared as pictured by R. S. Palmer (1962, *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. I, p. 454). According to the Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (*Kingbird*: Fall 1981), the White Ibis is on the list for which reports are sought. This is the first report for Clinton County and according to the range map in Palmer (1962, p. 525) the only other straggler reports in the Northeast have come from Vermont and the Province of Quebec.

Accepted reports listed in the NYSARC's report (*Kingbird*, 1981: p. 206) state that there have been 11 state sightings recorded as of September 1980.

Dr. Charles W. Mitchell, SUNY Plattsburgh, New York 12901

**Yellow Rail at East Patchogue:** On 23 October 1982 a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) jumped up in front of me as I walked through a patch of Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) on an area of dredge spoil material on the north shore of Great South Bay, east of Mud Creek in East Patchogue, Suffolk County. The area was covered mainly by Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*), interspersed with pure stands of Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), and Switch Grass. My first impressions were of an injured bird, since it flew so weakly, dangling its legs beneath its body. I could see its short bill and buffy overall coloration, and, as it turned fully away from me, the two white patches on the trailing edges of the wings. I ran to where it had landed, about thirty feet away, but it did not reappear then or later in the day when I returned with Barbara Spencer, Karen Rowley and Keith Rowley to look for it.

Arthur P. Cooley, 341 Durkee Lane, East Patchogue, New York 11772

**Ring-billed Gulls Hawking Ants:** On 28 September 1982, I observed a flock of approximately 30 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) that appeared to be hawking insects over a sandy dredge spoil area on the north shore of Great South Bay in East Patchogue, Suffolk County. Around me were thousands of flying ants emerging from the ground and flying in the direction of the gulls. While I tried following an individual ant and then an individual gull with my binoculars, I was unable to observe an actual capture, because the gulls were about 75 yards away. Each gull, just before grabbing something, raised his head, stalled a bit in the air and snapped its bill. After opening and closing its bill as if crushing something, the gull would fly on and circle for another pass. Not surprisingly, a number of Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) flying among the gulls and ants were ignored.

Bent (1921) states that in the western plains Ring-billed Gulls follow the plow "... picking up worms, grubs, grasshoppers and other insects." He also

quotes Dr. J. A. Allen who reports that Ring-billed Gulls "... at certain hours of the day rose in the air to feast on the grasshoppers ... and it was a curious fact that the gulls captured the grasshoppers in the air ... sailing around in broad circles, as though soaring merely for pleasure, ... [seizing] the flying grasshoppers as easily, if not as gracefully, as a swallow ..." Both Dennis Puleston and Barbara Spencer (pers. comm.) report having seen Ring-billed Gulls feeding on flying ants. Lauro (1977) reports that on 13 September 1976 nearly 3,000 gulls of three species (Herring, Ring-billed and Laughing) were seen hawking ants on an eight-mile stretch of the barrier beach west of Captree Bridge on Long Island.

The smallness of the prey in this case raises questions about how efficient hawking might be for such large birds. Recent reports state that insects have a higher percentage of protein than traditional meat sources and suggests their use as human food. Maybe the gulls have learned that insects are a good protein source. It wouldn't be the first time an animal discovered something before we did.

Bent, A. C. 1921. *Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns*, Dover Publ.: 137.

Lauro, A. J., 1977. Gull predation on an ant swarm, *Kingbird* 27 (2): 87

Arthur P. Cooley, 341 Durkee Lane, East Patchogue, New York 11772

**Unusual Bird Tragedy:** On 26 May 1982 I received a phone call informing me of a dead bird hanging upside down on the trunk of a tree. Investigation revealed the following facts. A medium-sized Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), 14 inches in diameter at chest height and located on the lawn of a private home in a residential section of Monticello, Sullivan Co., had received the attention of a woodpecker. Closer inspection proved that a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) had excavated two holes in the trunk of the tree. The top hole, a typical excavation, an oblong approximately four inches by nine inches and about nine inches deep, was six feet above the ground on the westerly side of the tree. Below this hole was a second smaller one, two feet above ground level and measuring about three inches by five inches and six inches deep. Both excavations revealed evidence of the presence of Carpenter Ants. Small amounts of pitch had exuded from both excavations. From the bottom hole, hanging head downward, and suspended by two toes of each foot was the carcass of an adult male Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Further examination showed that the bill, with a few small pin feathers adhering to the tip, was tightly cemented shut by a quantity of pitch, requiring some effort to pry open. Closer examination showed the breast muscles to be very thin and in poor condition.

In conclusion we are left with several questions. (1) Why did it not fly away? (2) What caused the death of the bird? (3) How long dead before being discovered (no evidence of decay)?

Kenneth D. Niven, P.O. Box 343, Monticello, New York 12701

## MORE ON THE ENGLISH NAMES OF BIRDS

In July 1982, the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union published the "Thirty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds" (*Auk*, vol. 99, no. 3; Suppl., 16 pp.). This publication consists of a complete list of all bird species recognized as occurring in Canada and the United States (including Hawaii), using the English and scientific names that will appear in the forthcoming Sixth Edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*. The sequence of species and the limits of families, subfamilies and tribes are also those that will be followed in the new A.O.U. *Check-list*. With the appearance of this list, the long period of nomenclatural instability in the names of North American birds has come to an end, and there is once again a complete list of standard names for the birds of this continent. In keeping with the editorial policy of *The Kingbird*, this new list will be adopted and used in this journal. The Regional Reports in this issue use the new names, and in issues following this one the sequence of species will be followed as well.

Copies of the Thirty-fourth Supplement are available for \$3.00 each postpaid from Dr. Glenn E. Woolfenden, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620. For the convenience of readers and contributors who do not have access to the Thirty-fourth Supplement, we are listing here all of the changes in English names that involve the birds of New York State; the following list includes those given earlier (*Kingbird*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 89-90, Spring, 1977; vol. 31, no. 1, pp. 14-16, Winter, 1981), as well as name changes appearing for the first time in the Thirty-fourth Supplement. As in the past, in cases where names have been changed as a result of the lumping of species the old names are given in quotes; these old names can still be used to refer to distinct populations that were formerly recognized as separate species. Old names not enclosed in quotes have been changed for reasons other than lumping, and should no longer be used.

## Old Name

Fulmar  
Wilson's Petrel  
Leach's Petrel  
Gannet  
White Pelican  
Common Egret  
Louisiana Heron  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
Wood Ibis  
Fulvous Tree Duck  
Whistling Swan  
White-fronted Goose  
"Blue Goose"  
"Black Brant"  
"Common Teal"  
Black Duck  
Pintail  
Shoveler  
European Widgeon  
American Widgeon  
Common Scoter  
Swallow-tailed Kite  
Marsh Hawk  
Goshawk  
Sparrow Hawk  
Pigeon Hawk  
Turkey  
Bobwhite  
Common Gallinule  
American Golden Plover  
Upland Plover  
Knot  
Northern Phalarope  
Skua (part)

## New Name

Northern Fulmar  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Leach's Storm-Petrel  
Northern Gannet  
American White Pelican  
Great Egret  
Tricolored Heron  
Green-backed Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
Wood Stork  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck  
Tundra Swan  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Brant  
Green-winged Teal  
American Black Duck  
Northern Pintail  
Northern Shoveler  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
Black Scoter  
American Swallow-tailed Kite  
Northern Harrier  
Northern Goshawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Wild Turkey  
Northern Bobwhite  
Common Moorhen  
Lesser Golden-Plover  
Upland Sandpiper  
Red Knot  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Great Skua

## Old Name

Skua (part)  
 Black-headed Gull  
 Herring Gull (part)  
 Barn Owl  
 Screech Owl (part)  
 Hawk-Owl  
 Saw-whet Owl  
 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker  
 Black-backed Three-toed  
   Woodpecker  
 "Yellow-shafted Flicker"  
 "Red-shafted Flicker"  
 Eastern Wood Pewee  
 Traill's Flycatcher (part)  
 Traill's Flycatcher (part)  
 Rough-winged Swallow  
 Common Crow  
 Short-billed Marsh Wren  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren  
 Wheatear  
 Robin  
 Catbird  
 Mockingbird  
 Starling  
 Parula Warbler  
 "Myrtle Warbler"  
 "Audubon's Warbler"  
 Yellowthroat  
 Cardinal  
 Tree Sparrow  
 "Ipswich Sparrow"  
 "Slate-colored Junco"  
 "Oregon Junco"  
 "Baltimore Oriole"  
 "Bullock's Oriole"

## New Name

South Polar Skua  
 Common Black-headed Gull  
 Thayer's Gull  
 Common Barn-Owl  
 Eastern Screech-Owl  
 Northern Hawk-Owl  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl  
 Three-toed Woodpecker  
  
 Black-backed Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 Alder Flycatcher  
 Willow Flycatcher  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
 American Crow  
 Sedge Wren  
 Marsh Wren  
 Northern Wheatear  
 American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Northern Mockingbird  
 European Starling  
 Northern Parula  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Northern Cardinal  
 American Tree Sparrow  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 Northern Oriole  
 Northern Oriole

The Editors

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

15 Laurel Hill Road  
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522  
9 February 1983

Emanuel Levine, Editor  
*The Kingbird*

Dear Manny:

I noted your recent announcement that Letters to the Editor were being solicited. Would you consider printing the following?

I wept when I read the breeding season issue of *The Kingbird*. While only the other Regional Atlas Coordinators can be expected to share my peculiar behavior, I write in the hope of enlisting the sympathy or, preferably, the understanding of a larger group.

My tears fell on the accounts of the hummingbird nest discovered, the great blue heronry located, the Cooper's Hawk found nesting, and countless other items which have not made their way into the Breeding Bird Atlas. They are buried in the fine print of *The Kingbird*, to be resurrected, if at all, only by some desperate graduate student. How much more valuable they would be as a permanent record on the Atlas maps!

When I try to track down some of these "goodies," a response I frequently hear is, "But it wasn't in my Atlas block." In answer to that, I have adopted a motto for the Atlas: EVERYTHING IS SOMEWHERE. And, believe it or not, the Atlas Coordinators, given the proper information, know where that "somewhere" is. We are intimately familiar, at least on paper, with every inch of our regions and can locate anything in the right block.

Of course, some of these reports—and this is occasion for even greater grief—come from people who are obviously out in the field with their eyes open and notebooks handy during the breeding season, but, for whatever their reason, have not participated in the Atlas project.

As we enter the penultimate year of the field work, everyone who cares enough to contribute to *The Kingbird* should be working on the Atlas. It's the only chance most of them will ever get to participate in a work of major significance and, besides, it will help dry the eyes of ten Regional Coordinators.

Berna Weissman  
Region 9 Atlas Coordinator

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Following a September with temperatures running from just about normal to "the coolest in 17 years" (Region Nine), the weather smoothed to uniformly warm and dry across the state. Periods of Indian Summer succeeded one another through the latter half of the season. November averaged 3° F above normal in most regions. Frost held off at lower elevations until late October or even to late November (Region Ten). The only significant snowfall was 12 inches in the Buffalo area 11 November. The lack of precipitation led to drought fears in Regions One, Four, Nine and Ten. After the record cold of late August, with its early flights of waterfowl, and many predictions for one of the worst fall/winter periods in history, this fall at least points out our shortcomings in long range forecasting.

The general migration was slow and spotty, befitting a season with few strong frontal passages and more southwesterly winds than the expected northwesterlies. Conditions were ideal for strong night movements, noted in the regional reports but reported by few observers. The best days for ground observation were 1, 7, 26-29 September and 1 October. The spotty nature of the migration is probably best recorded in Region One where banding stations at Alfred Station and Franklinville Station, less than 40 miles apart, report "best ever" and "very poor" banding results respectively. Additional banding results are presented in the Region Four and Eight reports. Given the balmy fall, one would expect many reports of late birds. In fact there are many, though not as many as one might expect, and only three record late dates: Royal Tern, 3, 4 and 14 November, and a late and coastal Hooded Warbler, 28 November, both in Region Ten; and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at a late inland date, 28 November, in Region Two. It is probable (in fact, apparent from more recent winter data) that the lack of snow cover and the excellent wild food crop reported in most regions left the lingerers scattered all over the countryside rather than concentrated for easy observation. There is at least one comment of good species totals though poor numbers, a familiar lament in recent years, but even the species total was low this season at 292, though lacking only rarities, as most of the regulars were reported.

Turning next to the usual fall flights, we note first Common Loon numbers good where noted and expected, except in Region Ten, where apparently only one observer even mentioned loons or grebes.

On the negative side, very few Red-throated Loons were reported, with the maximum only nine. The associated grebe picture is mixed, with Pied-billed generally very scarce, except in Region Nine. Generally, waterfowl numbers were good to average, with the usual scattering of lows, particularly among the divers. Puddle ducks received several good reports, but summarized by the table of peak numbers at Montezuma NWR, topped off with an incredible 180,000 Mallards. In addition, there were particularly good numbers of Wood Duck in Regions Eight, Nine and Ten; Gadwall in Region One; Canvasback in Region Nine; 10,000 Lesser Scaup in Region Six; and Ruddy Duck at a new regional high in Region Five. Typical of recent years, Black Duck numbers were a mere shadow of Mallards. Among the raptors, counts were generally poor, reflecting unfavorable winds at the fall mountain and beach hawk watches. In specifics, Turkey Vultures were up in numbers and late in several regions; the Bald Eagle up a bit at 30+ records; accipiters mixed, but low at the beach watches which usually record their fall peaks; Red-shouldered Hawk very few; Broad-winged, very low, but with one very late report, 30 November in Region Eight; Red-tails, most frequently up; Golden Eagles only in Regions Three, Nine and Ten; American Kestrel and Merlin numbers low; and Peregrine Falcon reports at 82+, although 15 of these were a count of birds hacked in Region Seven. The shorebird picture was another spotty one, with feature reports a 15 September flight noted by lakewatchers in Region Two, including 400 Lesser Golden-Plovers, 58 Whimbrels, and 59 Red Knots; good variety in Region Five, with a good count of 24 Hudsonian Godwits; and another thorough shorebird survey by Tom Davis at Jamaica Bay. Also, interestingly, we find Red-necked Phalaropes scattered across six regions, but Red Phalarope only inland in Region Five with a peak of 13+. Missing regulars were Piping Plover, American Oystercatchers, Willet, and Ruff; Help!, Region Ten. The gathering of gulls was termed great in Region One, but was of little note elsewhere across the state. Special notes of interest include: a flock of 700 Laughing Gulls in Region Ten; a peak count of only six Little Gulls in Region Two, the lowest in years; and the failure of the California Gull to reappear in Region Nine, although an immature was recorded in Region-Ten. The tern picture was much the same, with only the encouraging numbers of Common Terns in Regions Two, Five, and Six and the record high of 114 Royal Terns in Region Ten of special note. Next we find an exciting "seabird" invasion inland, with good numbers of jaegers in Regions Two and Five; record numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes in Region Five (max. 132 in the period 10-23 October), with good

counts on corresponding dates in Region Two and at Hamilton, Ontario; a Northern Gannet in Regions Two, Three and Five, with dates and descriptions suggesting a single bird for the Region Two and Five records and the date such that the Region Three bird could also be the same; and a Thick-billed Murre in Region Five. To put these numbers in overall perspective, note the gathering of 1000+ kittiwakes in Region Ten in late November. The passerine picture again presents a mixture. Golden-crowned Kinglets were listed as up in numbers in eight regions, recovering well. Ruby-crowned, up in three regions. Blue Jays staged some impressive flights as revealed by high peak counts in Regions Nine and Ten. Thrushes were generally noted as low in numbers and gone early, but this may simply reflect a preponderance of prime, night-flight conditions. For encouragement, note the huge roost of 20,000 American Robins in Region Nine and good Eastern Bluebird reports, including 260 fledged on one nest box trail in Region Nine. The warbler flight was patchy, as noted earlier. There were many very late departure dates and numerous good counts for individual species, with 2500 Yellow-rumped in Region Ten and 15 Hooded in Region Four, new state highs. There were no new trends ranging across regional lines. The sparrow picture was much the same, with one region's low another's high. Finally, winter incursives were low, as might be expected given the weather. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low, Snowy Owl was reported as only ones or twos, although in eight regions; only one Boreal Chickadee was reported away from Region Seven, Northern Shrikes were few, winter finches were few in species and count, and longspurs and Snow Buntings were scarce.

In addition to the flight groups, there are numerous other species, many of them Blue Listed, which we try to follow. Double-crested Cormorant was up in Regions One, Two, Five and Nine, with a new regional max. of 217 in Region Five, probably not too surprising with their breeding increasing at the east end of Lake Ontario. Both bitterns were very low, with most regional counts just singles. The Common Barn-Owl was reported by only Regions Three and Six, with those in Region Six three found dead after an unsuccessful nesting attempt *last winter*. No Whip-poor-wills were reported and Common Nighthawks were very scarce except for peak migration counts in Regions Three and Eight. Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to increase their ranges and numbers to the north and east. Horned Lark is red-flagged in Regions One, Three, Five and Nine. The Tufted Titmouse continues to strengthen its presence in the north, with two recorded at Tupper Lake to 30 November. Sedge

Wren was unreported; Carolina and Winter Wrens remain very low. The Loggerhead Shrike was reported only in Region Nine, although I know that two lingered in Region Two well into September. Eastern Meadowlark was reported only in six regions, with three of these commenting on low numbers. Among the grassland sparrows, Grasshopper and Henslow's are seldom reported after their singing ceases and so are unsurprisingly scarce at this season, and Vesper received mixed reviews, generally scarce. One could easily expand this type of commentary to a full report in itself.

By carefully scanning the regional reports, one can pull forth numerous nuggets of information. I'll start you off with a few. Birders are always looking for new ways or locations to gather records (list ticks or tables of data); note a Harbor Census in Region One, a Lake Watch in Region Two, and new Hawk Watches in Regions Five and Ten. Region Eight wonders about a Fall Census; Region One has this and Region Two has a September Big Day and a Halloween Treasure Hunt (four hours of searching for marked species, but lots of other data gathered). In contrast to this interest, we find the Federation cancelling pelagic trips for lack of interest. In Region Seven, find reports of a variety of species using Wood Duck nest boxes. The marshes must really be in trouble around New York City, with a Virginia Rail turning to a health food store! In Region Six 15-17 Common Ravens turned up on some deer entrails, another value to deer hunting. Wood Frogs peeped on into November in Region Seven. Banders in Region Eight reported some tidbits on plumage changes and skeletal development, in addition to locating Cedar Waxwings with the orange tail tips typical of the Japanese race. In Region Ten the regional editor managed to tear himself away from the typewriter in the middle of his report and glance out the window long enough to confirm that the House Sparrow is locally in good shape, in spite of no observers reporting them. Undoubtedly, there are many more hidden jewels awaiting your studies of the regional reports.

Looking to the rarities, we find the selection a bit slimmer this fall; 48 species underlined by regional editors, about 24 really rare. The best of the lot are: Region One—Gyr Falcon and Common Raven; Region Two—Northern Gannet; Region Three—Northern Gannet, White Pelican, and Lesser Black-backed Gull; Region Four—Kentucky Warbler; Region Five—Northern Gannet and Thick-billed Murre; Region Seven—Spruce Grouse and Willow Flycatcher; Region Eight—Harlequin Duck; Region Nine—Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, American Avocet, Common Raven, Connecticut Warbler, and Dickcissel; and Region Ten—Greater White-fronted Goose, Yellow Rail,

Great Skua, California Gull, Northern Wheatear, and two identifiable subspecies: Rufous-sided "Spotted" Towhee and Northern "Bullock's" Oriole. As usual, in addition to the super-rarities noted, Region Ten had a wide variety of birds which are regular strays there, but which would have been exciting finds in almost any other region.

The BOTS (Bird of the Season) award goes to the Northern Gannet that appeared in Regions Two, Three, and Five. From the dates and plumage descriptions, there would seem to be a possibility that all records were of the same individual. It is hoped that this misguided individual finally found his way back to salt water.

*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

### EDITORS' NOTE

This issue marks the changing of the guard in Regions Two, Seven and Eight. Bob Spahn, Region Two editor, will be followed by Kevin Griffith. However, Bob is not leaving us, but is assuming the post of permanent Highlights editor.

In Region Seven, the press of other affairs has forced Ted Mack to pass the baton to John M. C. Peterson. Better known as Mike, he is the current Region Seven Atlas compiler.

In Region Eight, Bill Cook will be unable to continue as he will be spending several months each year in Alaska. Fortunately, Ed Reilly, a past President of the Federation, has agreed to take the post.

We are not sure that the readers fully realize the magnitude of the task that the Regional editors undertake each quarter. *The Kingbird* editors do, and marvel both at the excellent work and the willingness to assume this "labor of love."

We wish to thank Bob, Ted and Bill for their past efforts and welcome their successors.

The Editors

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"The little cares that fretted me,  
I lost them yesterday

.....  
Out in the fields of God."

Author unknown

But, watcher in his window chair knows, too, this joy so sweet. As feeders call the birds to him, God's fields are at his feet. However, feeders were nearly deserted this season partly because of a bountiful wild food crop, but more, perhaps, because of the balmy temperatures brought by the jet stream as it flowed far north of the usual fall pattern. Every month was warmer than normal: September by 1.2° F. (.7° C.), October by .6° F. (.3° C.), and November by 2.7° F. (1.5° C.) and lakes and waterways were still open at the end of the period. Following the wretchedly cold summer, the mild weather was a welcome change and gardens flourished especially since the first killing frost for most areas held off until 18 October. Honey bees were at the peak of goldenrod honey production 24 September and still working on asters 5 October—very late for the Southern Tier (Eaton). Although lower than normal precipitation from June through October resulted in a drought scare, 2.5 inches (6.4 cm) of rain in early November raised the water table and made this month's average nearly normal. On 5 November, a foot of snow at Buffalo brought down power lines and tied up business, relieving the drought situation the hard way.

Except for the regionwide Canada Goose movement the 28th and 29th of September, the migration was spotty. For example, at Alfred Station during the period, E. Brooks reported it as the best ever, with 672 new birds banded, 57 species of which 19 were warblers. Two-thirds of these were netted in September with highest count on the 27th. On some days it was necessary to take down nets for brief periods to keep the situation under control! Up in numbers here were the Magnolia Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird and Black-throated Green Warbler, but down were the Yellow-rumped Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. In September at Colden, D. Bigelow found large tower kills signifying a good warbler flight there (*vide* D. Clark). However, at Franklinville Station, netting during the fall period was "very poor" for Don Clark who banded 396 birds of 38 species including but eight species of warblers.

There are two other special highlights for our region. During the last weekend of September, Roger Tory Peterson visited Fredonia to receive an award from the State University College. Following the dinner, his companions in the parking lot were astonished to have him identify Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes calling overhead. He was delighted, too, to be able to hear Golden-crowned Kinglets although he is now 74 (Sundell). Another interesting note is the undertaking of a daily census of Dunkirk Harbor by the Lake Erie Bird Club from 1 October to at least April. Sightings below already attest to the worth of this project, and if correlated with weather, there should be much more worthwhile information in addition to possible rarities (Rew).

Positives for the fall include 1) a splendid loon flight, many grebes, including the Red-necked, and good numbers of cormorants and Great Blue Herons, 2) more than usual Brant, 3) an excellent Turkey Vulture migration, 4) continued abundance of Ruffed Grouse, and a few more pheasants, probably stocked birds, 5) an interesting but hardly spectacular shorebird flight, 6) a great larid season, 7) better E. Screech-Owl reports, one to two in seven areas, and hummingbirds doing O.K., 8) fine numbers of titmice, a modest Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, and Brown Creepers unusually evident, 9) E. Bluebirds still thriving, 10) fair numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 11) lots of House Finches and goldfinches.

Negatives for the fall include 1) no Red-throated Loons, almost no bitterns and a poor duck flight, 2) no No. Goshawks, fewer Sharpies, Cooper's Hawks and kestrels, 3) turkeys less plentiful, 4) very few Killdeer, 5) no Least or Black Terns or Whip-poor-wills, 6) very few Hairy Woodpeckers, phoebes and Horned Larks, 7) no Carolina Wrens, 8) a scarcity of Hermit Thrushes, a poor Ruby-crowned Kinglet flight, and near absence of shrikes, 9) Eastern Meadowlarks at their usual low, 10) meager numbers of Rusty Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Purple Finches, 11) a very poor flight of juncos, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows, and fewer Song Sparrows.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Peregrine Falcon, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, No. Saw-whet Owl, and Common Raven.

Abbreviations: BC—Bird Club; C—Bird Census, 10 Oct: ACC for Allegany County BC, BOSC for Buffalo Ornithological Society, CCC for Cattaraugus County BC, and LEC for Lake Erie BC; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; SPA—State Power Authority Reservoir near Lewiston; and WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Kenneth Balmas, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Stephen Eaton, Mary Forness, John Forness (JFo), Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Doris Hurlburt, Jamestown Audubon Society, Ken Johnson (Weather Data, Wellsville), Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Lake Erie Bird Club, Erma Larson, Terry D. Mosher, Katherine Palmer, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Gordon Prior, Juckey Prior, Frances Rew, Lynn Rositzke, Lillian Simons, Robert A. Sundell (RS), and Jim Velente. Initialed observers: Robert Andrie, Harold Axtell, Paul Baglia, Esther Becker (EsB), Nancy Bowser, Lois Buck (LBk), Douglas Carlson, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Dorothy Danner, Frances DeGroff, Marcya Foster (MFs), David Gagne, Joanne Goetz, Paul Hess, Norman Ives, Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Mary Jordan, John Jordan, Robert Klips, Judy Kumler, Phil Kumler, Terry Mahoney (TMah), Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Richard Miga, John Morse, Judy Mosher (JMos), Grace O'dell, Edmund Olsen, and Arthur Schaffner.

A Clarification: In the report for Region 1, *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXII: No. 3, Summer 1982 p. 187, paragraph 2, line 4 should read, "BREWER'S BLACKBIRD appeared on old Kiantone Rd., Chautauqua Co., w. of junction with Rt. 60 on 14 Mar (RS, DG)." "Chautauqua Co." was omitted from the text.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon flight was the best in years with singles at Bear L. 9 Nov (TM) and Barcelona 14 Nov (FR+) as well as max 22 at Dunkirk Harbor, 12 at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk, and seven at Chautauqua L., all on 14 Nov (FR+), but again the Red-throated Loon was missing. Grebes were well reported, including several Red-necked, six at Lakeside 24 Oct and two at Shadigee the same day (RA+) and max two at Dunkirk Harbor

8 to 11 Nov (RM, JMost+). Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen at LaSalle Pk., Buffalo, 4 Sept (RA+) and others appeared regularly at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Sept thru 28 Nov with max 15 on 15 Oct (FR, LBk). The discovery of a **CATTLE EGRET** in the Town of Newstead 24 Nov (Freeland) is exciting. Other noteworthy long-legged waders reported were: Great Egret, one to three irregularly at Iroquois NWR, 2 to 12 Oct (JM, OO) and two at Tonawanda WMA 5 Oct (DD); Black-crowned Night-Heron: ten at Times Beach, Buffalo, 26 Sept (PH); Least Bittern: none; and Am. Bittern: one at Franklinville Sta. 5 and 24 Sept (DC), the only report. Peak of the Tundra Swan flight was 95 at Chautauqua L. 7 Nov (RS, DG) and of the Canada Goose, 6,104 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM). Unusual for Chautauqua Co. were the Brant at Dunkirk Harbor with max 35 on 5 Nov (RS+) as well as 23 on the s. end of Chautauqua L. 7 Nov (RS, DG); a Brant was also at Youngstown, Niagara Co., 28 Nov (Brock). At Iroquois NWR, a Snow Goose (white morph) appeared 6 and 27 Oct (JM, Prusa) and two "blues" were seen 27 Oct (Prusa) with one of the latter still there 17 Nov (JM). Highest counts from the duck migration, other than the Oct census and with no entry if reports were missing, include: Mallard, 57 in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., 23 Nov (KP); Am. Black Duck, four in Hume Twp, 3 Nov (KP) with only four other birds reported; Gadwall, 290 at Iroquois NWR 10 Nov (JM), but 125 at Burgeson Sanct 7 Nov (RS, DG), the latter a record high tally for Chautauqua Co.; No. Pintail, 36 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); Blue-winged Teal, four in Hume Twp. 25 Sept (KP); Am. Wigeon, 476 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM); No. Shoveler, five at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); Wood Duck, 20 in Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 8 Oct (VP); Redhead, 400 at Mayville 12 Nov (FR, LBk); Ring-necked Duck: nine on Beaujean Rd. Marsh, Chautauqua Co., 13 Nov (RM+) as well as the same number at Mayville the same day (TM+); Canvasback, 200 on Chautauqua L. 30 Nov (JK); Greater Scaup, 5,500 on the SPA Res 31 Oct (Cooper); Lesser Scaup, two at Iroquois NWR 17 and 30 Nov (JM, OO); Com. Goldeneye, two in the Town of Newfane 24 Oct (RA+); Bufflehead, 200 on Beaujean Rd. Marsh 30 Nov (JK); Oldsquaw, singles on Beaujean Rd. Marsh 30 Sept (JK) and near Alfred 26 Oct (EB); Surf Scoter, one at Mayville 14 Nov (FR+); Black Scoter, singles in the Town of Portland 27 and 28 Oct (DCar) and at Dunkirk Harbor 29 Oct and Mayville 12 Nov (FR, LBk); Ruddy Duck: 24 at the SPA Res 13 Nov (RK); Hooded Merganser, 105 at Iroquois NWR 10 Nov (JM); Com. Merganser, six in Amity Twp, 14 Nov (VP, MP+); and Red-breasted Merganser, 250 at Dunkirk Harbor 1-30 Nov (LEBC).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Best numbers for the Turkey Vulture flight were 52 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM) and 34 at Alma Pond, Allegany Co., 25 Sept (EB+). Other raptors were well represented this season: Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles on ACC and LEC and nine other birds counted from seven areas; Cooper's Hawk: four on ACC plus singles in seven locations; Red-shouldered Hawk, one on ACC with four others, total, from two areas; Rough-legged Hawk, a good movement into the region already with nine birds counted from eight sites; **BALD EAGLE**, still a rarity even tho' reported fairly regularly, a single imm at Iroquois NWR 2 and 28 Oct (Chandler, OO, Prusa) and another at Dunkirk Harbor 25 Sept (TMah); No. Harrier: 11 on ACC, one on LEC and singles in five locations; Osprey: four on ACC, one on CCC, one on LEC and singles spotted in seven areas; **GYRFALCON**, a dark-phase bird, unfortunately killed in collision with a plane at the Buffalo Airport near Cheektowaga 17 Nov (ARC) now a specimen at the Buffalo Museum of Science; **PEREGRINE FALCON**: an adult, well observed in Cattaraugus Co. just over the county line w. of Bolivar 1 Sept (MF, JFo); and Am. Kestrel: 12 on ACC, five on LEC plus 11 others counted from four Allegany Co. twps. A single Sora was found in the Town of Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., 5 Sept (Kumlers). Five Com. Moorhens were tallied on LEC and 250 Am. Coot rafted on Chautauqua L. 30 Nov (JK). Making shorebird watching worthwhile were: Lesser Golden-Plover, one at Canadaway Creek NS 4 Sept (NB); Black-bellied Plover, one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (RM, MVJ+) and another, injured, at Dunkirk Harbor 5 Nov (FR, LBk); Ruddy Turnstone, max 13 at Dunkirk Harbor 21 Oct (NB)—a good number—plus one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM); Red Knot, one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM); Pectoral Sandpiper: one on ACC and max of season 24 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM); Dunlin: max for fall, 24 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); and Sanderling, max 11 at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** cruised along the Lake Erie shore in Chautauqua

Co. 18 Oct—only the third appearance for the species in the county (RS, DCar). A real surprise was the appearance of a Glaucous Gull over *two months* early at Dunkirk Harbor irregularly 4 Sept to 1 Oct (TM, FR+); one was also seen at Niagara Falls 14 and 27 Nov (RK, KB+). The Iceland Gull at Dunkirk Harbor 1 Oct (FR, LBk+) was also early by a month. Rounding out this great larid season were: Great Black-backed Gull, max 76 at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Sept (FR, LBk); **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one identified on the Niagara R. at Buffalo, 24 Nov (RK, KB); Franklin's Gull: singles at Bird Island, Buffalo, 19 Sept (RA, MFs) and at Niagara Falls irregularly 13 to 28 Nov (RK, KB, HA+); Bonaparte's Gull: 3,750 at Niagara Falls 30 Oct (AS); Little Gull: six birds, total, in five Dunkirk-Niagara R. areas; **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one at Dunkirk Harbor 22 Oct (FR, LBk); Forster's Tern: 11 days late, at Dunkirk Harbor 19 Nov (FR); Least Tern: none; Caspian Tern: two in Dunkirk Harbor 12 Sept (NB); and Black Tern: none.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: The Snowy Owl at Buffalo 30 Nov (ARC+) was first for the season. A Short-eared Owl showed up at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport 8 Nov (JK), two more were seen at Iroquois NWR 15 Nov (JM), and a **NO. SAW-WHET OWL** was in for repairs at a veterinarian's in Jamestown 16 Nov (RS). Regional max for Com. Nighthawk was 25 at Buffalo 13 Sept (PH). Five widespread locations reported single Red-headed Woodpeckers while only 13 Hairies were counted from nine areas.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: As usual in fall, few E. Phoebees were present but an Olive-sided Flycatcher lingered nearly two weeks later than common at Fredonia until 28 Sept (TM, PB). There were several sightings of the **COMMON RAVEN**, all in Allegany Co.: single birds at Amity L., near Belmont, 23 Sept (VP) and near Alfred, where they have been seen in previous years, 12 Oct (EB), and two birds at Alma Pond 25 Sept (EB+) and in Wellsville 3 Oct (NI, Bromley). A total of eight Winter Wrens were found in six areas. A No. Mockingbird appeared on ACC and singles were found at Middleport 19 Oct (Krogs) and at Fredonia 9 Nov (JG), while two Brown Thrashers were still frequenting a Belmont feeder 13 Oct thru Nov (DB, LB). The E. Bluebird is doing very well with 50 on ACC, seven on CCC and max 31 at Amity L., Allegany Co., 24 Sept (VP) plus 37 others counted from seven sites. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Amity L 3 Sept (VP) and one was found a week late at Fredonia 30 Sept (TM+). The max report of Golden-crowned Kinglets was 25 at Dunkirk 18 Oct (Kumlers). Most of the few Ruby-crowned Kinglets reported were banded: 12 at Alfred Sta. during Sept and Oct (EB), 12 at Fredonia 17 Oct (MVJ) and two at Farmersville Sta. 3 Oct (DC); only 10 other Ruby-crowns were noted. Water Pipits tallied 56 on ACC with max of other sightings 50 in Amity Twp. 18 and 22 Oct (MJ, LB). Single No. Shrikes were seen between Mayville and Westfield, Chautauqua Co., 7 Nov (RS, DG), on Grand Island 14 Nov (PH) and at Amity L 27 Nov (VP). There were no Loggerheads.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Noteworthy vireo reports include two Yellow-throated at Spring Brook 2 to 14 Sept (DD) and a Philadelphia near Fredonia 4 and 22 Sept (TM, JG). Best of the warbler migration includes: Tennessee Warbler: 52 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept (EB); Orange-crowned Warbler: one banded at Fredonia 21 Oct (MVJ); Nashville Warbler: one, late, banded at Farmersville Sta. 25 Oct (DC); No. Parula: singles at Fredonia 20 Sept. (TM), near Alfred 23 Sept (Jacox *vide* EB) and at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 25 Sept (EsB); Yellow Warbler: one at Holland 8 Sept (EsB); Magnolia Warbler: max 91 banded at Alfred Sta. 1-27 Sept (EB); Black-throated Blue Warbler: six banded at Alfred Sta. 2-22 Sept (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 77 at Amity L 25 Sept (VP); Black-throated Green Warbler: 22 banded at Alfred Sta. 2-27 Sept (EB); Bay-breasted Warbler: max 15 at Holland 7 Sept (EsB); Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 at Holland 7 Sept (EsB); Pine Warbler: one on CC and one at Fredonia 15 to 28 Sept (TM+); Palm Warbler: one on ACC, two on LEC and five others counted from four areas; No. Waterthrush: three banded at Farmersville Sta. 8-23 Sept (DC); Hooded Warbler: one at Fredonia 1 Sept (JG), one banded at Farmersville Sta. 9 Sept (DC) and two at Chestnut Ridge Park 29 Sept (GO); and Wilson's Warbler: 15 banded at Alfred Sta. 1-27 Sept (EB) with singles at Amity L 3 Sept (VP) and near Fredonia 14 Sept (TM).

**TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS:** Rusty Blackbirds numbered 25 on ACC and eight on CCC with the only other reports, 12 at East Aurora 16 Oct (Rosche) and six at Amity L 25 Oct thru 8 Nov (VP, MP). Only 70 Brown-headed Cowbirds were found for ACC compared with 261 last year. An imm male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, lingering over a month late at Alfred Station, was seen several times each day at the feeder 14-22 Nov (CK), and max of the few Evening Grosbeak reports was 20 at both Amity L 28 Nov (VP) and Little Genesee 29 Nov (FD). While Purple Finch numbers were down with 34 on ACC (126 last year), the House Finch is doing fairly well with max for the season 50 at Stannards during Nov (HG). The only Pine Siskins were seven on ACC and one near Alfred 17 Oct (EB), but the Am. Goldfinch is flourishing; during Nov 154 of the latter were banded at Alfred Sta. (EB) with a "big influx on the 14th," and 30 were banded at Farmersville Sta. (DC). Seven White-winged Crossbills were sighted at Colden 22-26 Nov (Henning)—first "winter finches" for the season except for the few siskins. Interesting sparrow reports include: Vesper Sparrow: 12 on ACC and 15 near Wellsville 5 Oct (C. Burdick *vide* EL); Dark-eyed Junco: 286 on ACC (695 last year) and 15 on CCC; White-crowned Sparrow: 13 on ACC (158 last year), two on CCC and four on LEC with max of other reports, up to eight in Belmont 8 Oct thru Nov (DB, LB); White-throated Sparrow: 156 on ACC (407 last year), one on CCC and 55 on LEC with max of other reports, 21 in Amity Twp. 8 Oct (VP, MP); Fox Sparrow: reported from only five locations with maxima eight at Amity L 29 Oct (VP, MP) and seven near Alfred 7 Nov (EB); Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded at Alfred Sta. 19-28 Sept (EB), the only report; Song Sparrow: 273 on ACC (427 last year) and four on CCC; and Snow Bunting: max for the season 45 in the Town of Somerset 24 Oct (RA+).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

This fall season was ushered in by a relatively normal September with no significant temperature deviations and a deviation of minimal significance in precipitation. October followed with slightly below normal temperatures, yet periodic highs were recorded of up to 79° F (26° C) and the low reached a chilly 29° F (-2° C). Precipitation for October was below average at 1.79 in. as opposed to the norm of 2.7 in. November provided some of the most interesting data, as the end of the season came to a heated close. The average temperature was 43.4° F (6° C), which was nearly three degrees above the norm; and there were days late in November that reached the sixties. Precipitation levels were above normal but only a meager 1.12 in. above the norm with a total of 3.95 in.

The overall effect of the weather patterns surfaced most consistently in the late departures of various species. The unseasonably warm temperatures postponed the migratory patterns of some individuals. These patterns are noted in the late dates for some of the vireos, warblers and icterids. The passage of frontal systems through the region brought no major passerine concentrations; but good coverage of the west lakeshore, particularly Hamlin Beach, produced excellent reports of lake flights of waterfowl, shorebirds and terns. Low water levels along the lakeshore produced good shorebird habitat, possibly too much so, for the shorebirds weren't always concentrated; and some species, such as Buff-

breasted Sandpiper, were difficult to locate. Purple Sandpipers seemed nonexistent. The influx of winter resident species may have been somewhat delayed, but most of the expected species of waterfowl were on schedule and regular fall migrants too met the yearly schedule. With the seasonal migrants tarrying along the lakeshore, winter residents arriving, excepting finches, good quantitative and qualitative observations and good habitat—the fall season turned out to be generally quite good.

Positive observations evident during the season include a) good loon and grebe numbers, b) decent waterfowl flights, c) good numbers of Bald Eagle reports, d) good shorebird flights, e) numerous jaeger and kittiwake observations, f) good Common Tern flights on selected dates, g) decent numbers of chickadees and kinglets, h) No. Shrikes regularly observed, and i) Am. Tree Sparrows numerous.

On the negative side we have a) lack of any major Brant flights, b) Purple Sandpiper lacking completely, c) Red-breasted Nuthatches mediocre at best, and d) except for Evening Grosbeaks, winter finches were nearly nonexistent.

Rarities: Northern Gannet.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park; CH—Ontario Beach, Charlotte; D—Durand-Eastman Park, including the adjacent waters of Lake Ontario; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; IC—Island Cottage Woods; IB—Irondequoit Bay; and WL—west lakeshore, Rochester to Pt. Breeze.

Observers: Margaret Beckman, Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Bill and Rhea Colzman, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Bill and Jean Dingerson, Frank and Robert Dobson, Kay Doris, Richard Dobrits, June Feder, John and Arleen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Ralph and Georgia Guenther, Tom Hampson, Bob Hazen, Nurak Isarena, Øivind Jensen, Bob and Jane Kesselring, Alan and Sandy Klonick, David Levy, Warren Lloyd, Haywood Madden, Bob and Margaret McKinney, Ann Miranian, Laura and Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Tom Painting, Chip Perrigo, Mike Peter, Alice Quinn, Patty Reister, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne and Sharon Skelly, Tom Slecta, Robert and Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, David and Tom Tetlow, Joann and Mike Tetlow, June Warner, Ann Watson, Eleanor and Paul Weld, Monro Will, M. Woodams, and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: good flights with a max of 150 WL 14 Nov. Red-throated Loon: regular, but with a max of only four on any single day's observations. Pied-billed Grebe: relatively low in numbers. Horned Grebe: consistently observed along the lakeshore. Red-necked Grebe: reported on nine separate days from H, with a max of seven WL 24 Oct. NO. GANNET: an imm. bird was observed at Sodus Bay 16 Oct (TT), one imm at Sodus Bay 13 Nov (DS, TT), and one imm was observed at Braddock Bay and along the west lakeshore on 14 Nov (MD, PR). These probably represent the same individual. Double-crested Cormorant: very high count of 63 H 10 Oct (MD, CP, WS). Great Egret: two or three BB 2-12 Oct. Green-backed Heron: a late bird in Greece 10 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: a lingering individual at IB 31 Oct. Tundra Swan: reported from a few locales. Brant: few reports of small groups, max 475 CH 8 Nov (KG). Canada Goose: moderate flight, could be seen thru the season. No. Pintail: excellent numbers were observed along the lakeshore. Redhead: low numbers. Canvasback: few reports. Ring-necked Duck: 22 BB 26 Nov. Greater Scaup: large raft off DE mixed with Lessers, max 10,000 on 14 Nov. Oldsquaw: good numbers could be found along the lakeshore by the end of the season. Black Scoter: reported at Hamlin from 18 Sept thru the season. Surf Scoter: regular at H, max 100 H 24 Oct. White-winged Scoter: max 1500 H 16 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: abundant along the lakeshore by the end of the season. Bufflehead: scattered flocks from CH to H. Hooded Merganser: regular along the lakeshore, max 116 at Sodus Bay. Com. Merganser: very common

by the end of the season. Red-breasted Merganser: very common in Oct and Nov, max 5000 WL 14 Nov.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: lingered on thru a good portion of the period, last report one DE 7 Nov, one WL 7 Nov. Bald Eagle: imms with wing tags were sighted frequently along the lakeshore, individuals not sporting wing tags were observed at Hamlin on 6 Sept and 27 Nov. No. Goshawk: scattered reports of individual birds with one interesting report of a bird bathing in a creek. Peregrine Falcon: four reports in Sept and two reports in Oct. Com. Moorhen: late bird at BB 11 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: decent flight along the lakeshore, 400 WL 15 Sept. Semipalmated Plover: two IB 2 Nov were late in the season. Killdeer: 35 IB 19 Nov were a good number for this late. Greater Yellowlegs: three Northrup Ck 6 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: single late bird at Northrup Ck 2 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: one Avon 11 Nov. Spotted Sandpiper: late bird at IB 5 Oct. Whimbrel: excellent number of reports with a max of 58 H 15 Sept (CP, WS). Hudsonian Godwit: recorded in both Sept and Oct with a max of six H 15 Sept and six BB 22 Sept. Red Knot: good representation this season with consistent reports thru Sept and Oct with a max flight of 59 H 15 Sept (CP, WS). White-rumped Sandpiper: late reports, two Northrup Ck 1 Nov and one IB 6 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: very regular this season with a late individual at Northrup Ck 31 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: 50 WL 2 Nov. Dunlin: max of 150 WL 11 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one BB 1 Sept (CP), one H 15 Sept (CP, WS), one Moscow Rd, Hamlin 15 Sept (CC). Long-billed Dowitcher: first report one H 25 Sept, one/three present at Northrup Ck from 26 Sept thru 31 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: six separate reports with a max of two H 1 Oct. Pomarine Jaeger: a max of six reported from H 16 Sept (CP, WS), with as many as three observed all thru Oct and a single bird at CH 8 Nov (KG). Parasitic Jaeger: numerous reports from Hamlin with a tally of six on 3 Sept (MD, CP, WS), and a max of 12 from Hamlin during Oct, two reports were received for Nov. Franklin's Gull: one imm H 5 Nov (CC, WS). Little Gull: present from 16 Oct on, but in lower numbers than in recent years. Iceland Gull: one Pt. Breeze 8 Nov (WS). Black-legged Kittiwake: well reported with the first being five H 9 Oct (MD, CP, WS), and the last for the season one DE 27 Nov (MD, KG). Caspian Tern: a late individual at Sodus Bay 31 Oct. Com. Tern: fall flight good with a max of 84 H 4 Sept, and a late bird present at CH thru Oct, last seen on 8 Nov. Forster's Tern: one H 3 Sept. Black Tern: late individual reported CH 29 Sept.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Snowy Owl: one present at CH from 20 Nov thru the remainder of the month. Short-eared Owl: one H 9 Nov. Belted Kingfisher: many present thru the end of the season. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one late individual reported in Brighton 12 Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: Avon population holding its own with 25 reported on 11 Oct.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: last report, one WL 28 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last report one east lakeshore 6 Sept. E. Phoebe: last report, one H 23 Oct. Purple Martin: last report, one BB 23 Sept. Tree Swallow: two late birds in Greece 27 Nov. Bank Swallow: last report, one H 14 Oct. Cliff Swallow: last report, one H 1 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: mediocre flight. Carolina Wren: making a comeback?, consistent sightings and reports. House Wren: late individual one Webster 3 Oct. Sedge Wren: off year. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good seasonal flight. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: excellent numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very late bird traveling with chickadees DE 28 Nov (MD). E. Bluebird: Nations Road, Avon population doing very well with 28 reported on 11 Oct, and nine Avon 7 Nov. Swainson's Thrush: last report, one Rochester 21 Oct. Wood Thrush: last report, one Mt. Hope Cemetery 5 Oct. Gray Catbird: a lingering individual reported from Greece 13 Nov. Cedar Waxwing: excellent numbers. No. Shrike: good numbers of individuals sighted along west lakeshore.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Weather patterns produced some reports of late individuals. Solitary Vireo: one Mt. Hope Cemetery 13 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: one H 2 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: seven DE 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: not a late bird, but one sighted Cobb's Hill Park 19 Sept. Nashville Warbler: one DE 6 Oct. No. Parula: one IC 7 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: one Webster 23 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: three DE 6 Oct. Black-throated

Green Warbler: two Mt. Hope Cemetery 13 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: one Chili 13 Oct. Pine Warbler: one DE 6 Sept, one IC (date not known), Bay-breasted Warbler: one IC 3 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: one Webster 3 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: one Webster 3 Oct. Am. Redstart: very late, one Penfield 24 Nov (DS). Ovenbird: one Seneca Park 11 Oct. Connecticut Warbler: one Greece 7 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: two WL 3 Oct. Hooded Warbler: one Greece 14 Sept, one H 16 Sept. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Greece 9 Sept.

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: Rufous-sided Towhee: two Mendon Ponds 14 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: very good numbers. Fox Sparrow: three reports during Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: several reports of single birds. Lapland Longspur: three Carlton 24 Oct. Snow Bunting: good flights, but numbers smaller than recent years. Bobolink: last report, one Hogan Pt. 12 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: very good numbers, max 1,000 Greece 31 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: four Henrietta 14 Nov. House Finch: still expanding continuously and rapidly. Evening Grosbeak: minor flight.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Fall 1982 brought generally fine weather with no frosts until after mid-October, and with many beautiful Indian summer days. November averaged three degrees F above normal at Ithaca. October was very dry, no snow until Thanksgiving and only a little then. The fine weather probably accounts for the many late sightings of passerines.

While most observers felt that warblers were scarce, S. F. Kahl hit the jackpot. On the evening of 31 August he heard the calls of many warblers migrating overhead. What he found the next morning at Venice in Cayuga County is tabulated in the main body of the report.

Seasonal positives: 1) a good Common Loon movement; 2) an amazing 180,000 Mallards at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with excellent counts of most dabblers; 3) increasing reports of Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Northern Harriers and accipiters. Northern Harriers were reported at a greater number of the Cornell seminars than any other raptor except Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel; 4) continued success of Wild Turkey both in increased numbers and spread of territory; 5) Eastern Bluebirds holding their gains; 6) a slight increase in Vesper Sparrow sightings suggests a glimmer of hope for this beleaguered species; 7) more Lincoln Sparrow reports than usual.

Seasonal negatives: 1) continuing signs of a decline in Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel numbers; 2) few Rough-legged Hawks except in the Elmira area where they were "all over" in November; 3) very low numbers of Common Moorhen; 4) continued scarcity of Horned Larks; 5) small numbers of migrating warblers; 6) Am. Tree Sparrows arriving late and in miniscule numbers; 7) no winter finches except for a few Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County, L—Lake; max—maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Ow—Owasco; Schy—Schuyler; seminar—Laboratory of Ornithology Monday night seminars at Ithaca; Sen—Seneca; \*(starred)—details on file.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, John and Karen Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, S. F. Kahl (Auburn), Herbert and Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Mary Welles (Elmira).

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: a good fall for this species. The summering birds on Sen L continued thru the fall. The earliest migrants were 11 at Long Point Park, Cay L 27 Sept; max on Cay L 44 at Aurora 31 Oct; up to three on Ow L early Oct; present Keuka L Oct and Nov; 20 south end Sen L 15 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: scarce, Red-necked Grebe: Ithaca 19 Sept early. **NO. GANNET:** flying over Ithaca 30 Nov (Karen Confer)\*. No previous Region 3 records. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** the bird present at MNWR since early June was last seen 31 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: the last of the birds which summered at MNWR was seen 23 Oct; one with a dangling line and fishhook appeared at Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, Ithaca, in Sept. Am. Bittern: only reports were two from Penn Yan in Sept. Least Bittern: no reports. Great Blue Heron: up at Penn Yan; otherwise about normal. Great Egret: three at MNWR with last 18 Oct. Green-backed Heron: eight Ow Flats 5 Sept. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last one an imm at MNWR 31 Oct. Tundra Swan: four Cayuta L 6 Nov. Snow Goose: one white morph MNWR during Oct; one Phelps 19 Nov; two Sen L 30 Nov; one blue morph Union Springs 28 Oct. Brant: Cay L 2 Nov; 58 Ithaca and 120 at Sheldrake. Canada Goose: big flight day at Elmira 29 Sept extending into the night; thousands on the Finger Lakes and MNWR feeding on the surrounding farmlands.

Max waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by the MNWR personnel:

Geese			Ducks		
Canada	36,000	13 Oct.	Redhead	5,000	12 Nov.
Snow	3	21 Oct.	Ring-necked Duck	2,000	29 Oct.
<b>Ducks</b>			Greater Scaup	500	12 Nov.
Wood Duck	400	30 Sept.	Bufflehead	50	31 Oct.
Green-winged Teal	5,000	31 Oct.	Hooded Merganser	150	31 Oct.
Am. Black Duck	8,000	30 Nov.	No. Shoveler	4,500	20 Oct.
Mallard	180,000	30 Nov.	Gadwall	7,000	31 Oct.
No. Pintail	4,000	15 Nov.	Am. Wigeon	6,000	31 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal	250	10 Sept.	Com. Merganser	200	23 Nov.
Canvasback	2,000	9 Nov.	Ruddy Duck	30	31 Oct.

Wood Duck: up at Penn Yan. Am. Black Duck: four young too small to fly were seen near Big Flats 21 Nov—dig out the long Johns! Oldsquaw: Myers 25 Oct; Aurora 14 Nov. White-winged Scoter: MNWR 24 Oct; Aurora 14 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: first Cay L 15 Nov. Bufflehead: 20 Ow L 14 Nov. Com. Merganser: during July and Aug a molting male was seen on Cay L at Aurora. In the third week of Aug a molting female with three young, three-quarters grown, were found there and continued to be sighted thru 7 Oct (B. Mitchell *et al.*)\*. Ruddy Duck: seven Eldridge L, Chemung Co. 5 Nov.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: more frequent and widespread reports thruout the region. Osprey: one Scipio 1 Sept; two MNWR thru Sept; one Watkins Glen 30 Sept-15 Oct; one Ithaca 3 Oct; one Camp Ditmer, Phelps 27 Oct; one Elmira 6 Nov. Bald Eagle: two Dryden L 6 Sept (D. Armstrong). No. Harrier: making a comeback in Yates Co; one Scipio 17 Oct; three Elmira 17 Nov. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported at seven out of 11 seminars. Cooper's Hawk: up at Elmira; one Venice 24 Oct. No. Goshawk: one Watkins Glen 9 Nov; reported at Elmira. Red-shouldered Hawk: one MNWR 31 Oct (C. Melin). Broad-winged Hawk: one Watkins Glen 3 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: first Elmira 7 Nov and frequent thereafter. Golden Eagle: one Dryden L 16 Nov (E. Krantz). Merlin: no reports. Peregrine Falcon: one MNWR 28 Sept (R. Lundface, Canada). Ring-necked Pheasant: Cay Co "few"; Ontario Co "still scarce"; Yates Co "almost gone" but up in Tompkins Co. Ruffed Grouse: at the bottom of the cycle in Cay Co but increasing in Yates Co. Wild Turkey: greater numbers and more locations; at least ten locations in Yates Co. Com. Moorhen: down drastically at MNWR and no reports elsewhere. Am. Coot: 500 MNWR 31 Oct and the usual small numbers on each of the Finger Lakes. Shorebirds: despite only small mudflat areas being available, most of the common shorebirds, but few rare ones, were reported. There was but

one report each of the following species: Black-bellied Plover; Lesser Golden-Plover; Solitary Sandpiper; Upland Sandpiper; one Venice 1 Sept late (SK); Ruddy Turnstone; Red Knot: MNWR 30 Sept (WB); Sanderling; Western Sandpiper: MNWR 20 Oct (WB); Baird's: Ithaca 27 and 31 Aug (Brann *et al.*); Stilt Sandpiper; Am. Woodcock; Red-necked Phalarope. Species with two to five reports were Semipalmated Plover; Greater Yellowlegs; Lesser Yellowlegs; Spotted Sandpiper; Semipalmated Sandpiper; Least Sandpiper; Pectoral Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher. Killdeer, the most common of the region's shorebirds, was found thru the period with the max 43 at Ithaca 2 Nov. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: adult observed for 30 minutes at the Tompkins Co dump 13 Nov (J. Confer *et al.*). **GLAUCOUS GULL**: first year bird Ithaca 30 Nov. Caspian Tern: four MNWR 6 Sept. Com. Tern: reported at 13 Sept seminar.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: on 15 Nov up to 200 at Phelps were flying in a snow squall apparently quite disoriented. Barn Owl: one Ithaca 18 Sept (Disinger). E. Screech-Owl: reported at eight seminars. Great Horned Owl: numerous widespread reports would indicate this bird is doing well. Snowy Owl: no reports to the end of the period. Barred Owl: one Union Springs 14 Nov (Melin). Long-eared Owl: no reports. Short-eared Owl: no reports. Com. Nighthawk: migrating over Penn Yan 30 Aug-3 Sept with a max of 18 at one time; Elmira, as usual, remains the nighthawk migration center of the region. 250 were sighted there at 5 P.M. 1 Sept with another 100 circling the city at 7 P.M.; one late bird at Ithaca 4 Oct. Chimney Swift: one Ithaca 18 Oct late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15 Venice (SFK). Red-headed Woodpecker: imms at Phelps 31 Oct and Ithaca 18 Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to spread in southern Ow Valley and with at least eight locations in Schy Co. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a poor migration in most areas. Pileated Woodpecker: increasing Watkins Glen.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Elmira 1 Sept; one Ithaca 21 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded Penn Yan 26 Sept (ML). **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one Venice 1 Sept (SFK). Great Crested Flycatcher: one 4 Oct—late. Horned Lark: reported as scarce except in central Sen Co, a historical bastion of this species. Purple Martin: a few very late individuals in a flock of Tree Swallows at Phelps in mid-Oct. Bank Swallow: one MNWR 20 Oct late. **FISH CROW**: remained at Ithaca thru 8 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a very poor movement. Brown Creeper: a large movement in Cay Co late Nov. Carolina Wren: the only report outside of Ithaca was one at Montour Falls 23 Sept. House Wren: one north of MNWR 14 Oct late. Winter Wren: very scarce, being reported at only the 4 Oct and 1 Nov seminars; one Sen Co 24 Sept; one Elmira 15 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: the general consensus from several observers is that this species is on the increase. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: increasing slowly. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Venice 1 Sept. E. Bluebird: widespread reports and the gains of the last two years are holding. Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports. Swainson's Thrush: one Watkins Glen 5 Nov. late. Wood Thrush: one Ithaca Airport 20 Nov very late. Gray Catbird: Watkins Glen 3 Nov very late. Cedar Waxwing: up to 500 frequented the Ithaca College campus the first three weeks of Nov getting drunk on ornamental haw berries. Up to two dozen broke necks flying into plate glass windows. No. Shrike: one north of Ithaca 27-29 Nov. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports. European Starling: as abundant as ever or more so.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Vireos: White-eyed: one banded Ithaca 4 Oct (Gilbert and Kellog). Vireos and Warblers observed in two hours 1 Sept at Venice, Cay Co by S. F. Kahl:

Vireos		Warblers			
				Blackburnian	15
Yellow-throated	7	No. Parula	1	Bay-breasted	14
Warbling	7	Chestnut-sided	1	Blackpoll	1
Philadelphia	10	Magnolia	40	Black-and-white	3
Red-eyed	15	Cape May	110	Am. Redstart	15
Warblers		Black-throated Blue	1	Com. Yellowthroat	20
Tennessee	90	Yellow-rumped	1	Wilson's	1
Nashville	5	Black-throated Green	20	Canada	2

Warblers: Blue-winged: reported at 13 Sept seminar. Orange-crowned: one Elmira 11 Oct (Dick Clements). Yellow: last Venice 5 Sept. Yellow-rumped: 300 Venice 17 Oct. Ovenbird:

last reported at 27 Sept seminar. No. Waterthrush: last report seminar of 4 Oct. Connecticut: one banded Penn Yan 12 Sept (ML). Mourning: one banded Penn Yan (ML). Com. Yellowthroat: female Ithaca 21 Nov (B. Young). Hooded: one banded Penn Yan (ML). Warbler species missed during the period: Golden-winged; Pine; Prairie; Louisiana Waterthrush; Kentucky; Yellow-breasted Chat.

**TANAGERS--HOUSE SPARROWS:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 20 Venice 1 Sept. Indigo Bunting: 33 banded Penn Yan (ML). Am. Tree Sparrow: came very late and still very low numbers by the end of the period. Vesper Sparrow: reported at the 4 Oct seminar; 1 Scipio 28 Nov. Savannah Sparrow: 20 Venice 1 Sept. Grasshopper: reported at the 4 Oct seminar. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ithaca 4 and 18 Oct (JC); Elmira 22 Sept (WH); one Phelps 23, 27 Sept and 12 Oct (BH); seven banded Penn Yan (ML). White-throated Sparrow: good numbers in migration. White-crowned Sparrow: scarce in some areas. Snow Bunting: first Hammondsport 22 Oct; 100-150 Fayette 2 Nov; widespread reports of small flocks. Bobolink: 20 Venice 5 Sept. E. Meadowlark: scarce. No. Oriole: one late bird reported at the 15 Nov seminar. Brown-headed Cowbird: large flocks at Sen Falls during migration (HPK). Purple Finch: four Venice 10 Oct; 12 Varick 25 Oct; Schy Co Oct and Nov. House Finch: this exploding species is beginning to be regarded as a pest species by some who find that other small birds are being kept away from their feeders by the House Finches. Evening Grosbeak: first Ithaca 24 Sept; small numbers over most of the region by late Nov.

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## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

### HARRIET T. MARSI

After one of the wettest Junes on record, Region Four experienced a September and October so dry that a dangerous drought condition threatened. In September, Broome Co. received 1.8 inches of precipitation compared to an average 3.02 inches. In October 0.58 inches of rain fell compared to the normal rate of 2.46 inches for that month. In Oneonta, the reservoirs were so low that residents were asked to take water conservation measures. On 29 October divers there measured 12 feet of water over the reservoir intake valve. Two weeks later the city engineer estimated this down to about eight feet. The level of Chenango Lake, which feeds water to the two Norwich reservoirs, was also low. The regional fisheries manager of the Cortland Office of the DEC reported the Department keeping a watchful eye on the native trout population. In mid-November, the DEC issued a drought alert covering Region Four.

Fortunately conditions were somewhat alleviated on 31 Oct when Halloweeners were tricked by, and the rest of the population treated to, a gentle soaking rain measured as 0.41 of an inch by the National Weather Service at Broome County. This was followed on 5 November by the heaviest rainfall since June (1.73 inches) which soaked the dry countryside and somewhat revived shrunken streams. For the remainder of November precipitation was nearer to normal and weather headlines shifted to a second abnormal condition, i.e., much warmer than average temperatures. On 3 November, the National Weather Service in Broome County reported the "warmest November day ever recorded at Edwin A. Link Field" (77° F). This balmy condition continued all period, broken only occasionally. A large high pressure zone off the East Coast caused a steady flow

of warm air from the south-southwest, strong enough to fend off any northern pressure systems bearing cold Canadian air. One Indian summer day after another followed. A universal euphoria prevailed. One weather man commented, "Even my wife is happy with me!" This illusion of spring still held at period's end.

These two unusual weather conditions certainly must have produced a parallel trend in birdlife. If so, it was difficult to find. The lowered water levels produced heretofore covered river sandbars and wider than usual river and pond shores. However, the number of shorebirds seen was at the usual low consistent with an inland region. Great Blue and Green-backed Heron numbers were good but not exceptional. No other herons seemed attracted by the better-than-usual fishing conditions. The drought may also have affected the berry crop on the gray dogwood which seemed sparse, but other fruit, such as sumac heads, evergreen cones, and wild apples were in good supply. Field crops—legumes and grasses that feed dairy cattle—faced drought-related stress. However, this would affect the spring crop. Meanwhile the usual weed seeds seemed in normal supply. Reports of sparrows and other seedeaters were high. One Vestal banding station, with mainly four nets up from six to eight o'clock each morning tallied: 53 Field Sparrows, one Vesper Sparrow, one Savannah Sparrow, one Grasshopper Sparrow, one Fox Sparrow, 210 Song Sparrows, six Lincoln's Sparrows, 41 Swamp Sparrows, 63 White-throated Sparrows and six White-crowned Sparrows. This is a new station so records cannot be compared to previous data (GK).

The extended warm season possibly gave mice and rabbits a chance to produce an extra litter, since both populations seemed excessively high. This in turn may have accounted for the good number of owl and hawk reports. However, the Snowy Owl that showed up at the Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, was probably attracted by the large resident Mallard and Am. Black Duck population or possibly by the young birds in the pheasant hatchery. Also the Short-eared Owl reported was itself the prey, not the predator. Its fresh remains were found in a wooded ravine within 100 feet of an extensive area of open fields. Other species reacted to the mild weather by drifting through, spread out in both time and space, making it difficult to locate large numbers of any given species. Nevertheless, the number of species reported was average.

Of special interest were: Northern Goshawk, Long-eared Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: OPM—Oneonta, Portland, Milford; AHY—After Hatching Year; HY—Hatching Year; F—female; M—male; N.C.—North-central.

Observers: Margaret Applebaugh, Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Suzie Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Lois Bingly (LBi), Wm. Breidinger, Nancy Brundage, Sally Carey, Lynne Clark, Mildred Clark, Reeva Clark, Gene Converse, Roger Daigle, Lois Darling, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Jeff Davis, Louise Dean (LDe), Mary Dobinsky, Dorothy Gracey, Shirley Hartman, Helen Hymers, Eugene Kirch, Gail Kirch, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Joe Longin, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Leona McDowell, Mr. McNitt, Bud and Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, Paul Meyers, Edith Nettleton, S. Paston, Allen Peterson, H. Robinson, Joe Sedlacek, Mary Sheffield, Robt. Sheffield, Stuart Snyder, George Steele, Wm. Toner, Connie Whitcomb (CWh), Anne Whittaker, Connie Wilkins, Kathryn Wilson, Tom and Beryl Wilson, Clifford Yates, Anne Zimmerman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: none. Pied-billed Grebe: three reports: one bird 9 Nov, Milford; one bird Nov Tioga Co; one bird 21 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir. Red-necked Grebe: one report 21 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A&MD). Double-crested Cormorant:

one report 20 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A&MD). Great Blue Heron: common thru region during Sept to mid-Oct, petering out during Nov but a few still remaining at end of Nov. Green-backed Heron: common thru up to mid-Sept, last date, 11 Sept, OPM. Tundra Swan: one report: six birds (2 AHY, 4 HY) 8 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (SS). Canada Goose: many flocks; first flying south 28 Sept, Otselic (DM); the last 14 Nov, Windsor (JS), except for the many still at Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, 30 Nov, Wood Duck: five reports: one Broome Co, three OPM, one Tioga Co; largest number, 12 9 Sept OPM (MD, KW). Green-winged Teal: one report 16 Nov, Oneonta Reservoir (MD, KW). Am. Black Duck: three Sept reports, from Broome Co, OPM and Tioga Co; at Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, "several" were still "mixed in with the Mallards" through 30 Nov. Mallard: common thru. Am. Wigeon: one bird reported, 6 Nov, Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (RD). Ring-necked Duck: one report, 13 Nov. of five birds on the Plymouth Reservoir (JL). Black Scoter: six (3M, 3F) 30 Oct, Chenango Lake (RD); three (2M, 1F) 6 Nov, Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (RD). Bufflehead: one 6 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (A & MD); one 13 Nov Plymouth Reservoir (JL); four 17 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM). Hooded Merganser: two reports: four 24 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); seven 30 Nov, Hartwick (MD, KW). Com. Merganser: four reports: 16 6 Oct, Delhi (LM); 15, 10 thru 24 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); one 13 Nov, Chenango Lake (JL); three 16 Nov Oneonta Reservoir (MD, KW). Red-breasted Merganser: one bird 30 Oct Chenango Lake (RD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: common thru area in Sept thru mid-Oct; last date 20 Oct, Middlefield (NB). Osprey: 17 reports, Sept thru mid-Oct; last date 14 Oct, Otego (KW). An interesting report of an Osprey nesting in a remote part of State Forest Lands near Pharsalia has been called to the attention of the DEC and will be further investigated with a follow-up report. Bald Eagle: one 17 Oct Delhi (SC). No. Harrier: six reports: one 9 Sept Vestal (EK); one 17 Oct Homer (WB); one 17 Oct Cortland (WB); one 26 Oct McGraw (WB); one 30 Oct Owego (AP); one 13 Nov Hunt's Pond, Chenango Co (JL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 reports scattered thru period; last 20 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Cooper's Hawk: eight reports scattered thru; last 27 Nov Choconut Center (MS). **NORTHERN GOSHAWK:** one 9 Nov Otselic (DM). Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: eight reports, 10 Sept thru 6 Nov; two Broome Co, five OPM, one Tioga Co. Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: only reports from Chenango Co where one bird was first seen 5 Nov; by end of Nov they were "very common, possibly encouraged by the large mouse and rabbit populations" (DM). Am. Kestrel: common thru. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported seen by many in Tioga Co; one report 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW); one report 6 Nov, Vestal (SB). Ruffed Grouse: common thru; one report 7 Nov Otselic of one drumming (DM), same report notes "had a reliable report of grouse in Oct and Nov, drumming at night." Wild Turkey: common thru. No. Bobwhite: one 1 Sept Endwell (FL) one 3 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Am. Coot: one 1 Nov thru 8 Nov, Whitney Point Reservoir (JD, RM); one "as late as third week in Nov" Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne (GS). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: one 27 Sept Vestal (GK); one 21 thru 23 Oct Vestal (GK). Spotted Sandpiper: one Sept Tioga Co. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Sept Tioga Co. Dunlin: one 2 Sept Endwell (FL); one 8 Sept Endwell (FL). Am. Woodcock: eight reports scattered thru area Sept and Oct; last date 23 Oct Vestal. Bonaparte's Gull: three 2 Sept, Endwell (FL). Ring-billed Gull: present thru period Broome Co, OPM, Otselic, Tioga Co. Herring Gull: only reports from Tioga Co Sept "several," Oct one.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one report Sept Tioga Co (D & JB, B & EM). E. Screech-Owl: 11 reports scattered thru area thru period. Great Horned Owl: 18 reports, scattered thru. **SNOWY OWL:** one 23 and 24 Nov Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne (GS). Barred Owl: three 20 Sept Otselic (DM). **LONG-EARED OWL:** one 3 Oct "and two times later," Delhi (MC, LM, HR). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one 7 Nov, Otselic, remains of a kill, feathers taken to Finch Hollow Nature Center, Johnson City and identified from mounted bird (CWh). No. Saw-whet Owl: one 18 Sept n.c. Vestal, banded (GK); one 7 Oct Endicott, "free-flying, trapped in a building, caught and released" (PM). Com. Nighthawk:

four reports: one Sept Tioga Co; three 28 Sept, 29 Sept, 2 Oct. Vestal-Binghamton area. Chimney Swift: two reports: one 9 Sept OPM (MD); one 19 Oct Broome Co (A & MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several Sept Tioga Co; one Oct Tioga Co; one 26 and 27 Oct Middlefield (NB). Belted Kingfisher: 14 reports scattered thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one 24 Sept Tioga Co (LBI). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one at feeder Sept and Oct, Tioga Co (LDe); one 22 Oct Homer (WB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several thru area; last date 23 Oct Delhi (MC). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: common thru. No. Flicker: common thru Sept and Oct; one 27 Nov Castle Gardens, Vestal (SP). Pileated Woodpecker: 17 reports, scattered thru.

**FLYCATCHERS--STARLINGS: OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** one 9 Sept OPM (MD). E. Wood-Pewee: nine reports, all Sept, last date 20 Sept OPM (MD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three banded at e. Vestal in Sept, last date 24 Sept (HM). Willow Flycatcher: Vestal (GK). Traill's Flycatcher: no song heard; one 29 Sept OPM (MD); one Sept Tioga Co (RB); "several in alder-willow mix 25 Sept Otselic" (DM). Least Flycatcher: 20 reports thru area; last date 27 Sept Delhi (MC). E. Phoebe: common Sept and early Oct thru; last date 19 Oct, Middlefield (NB). Great Crested Flycatcher: three reports; last date 24 Sept Tioga Co. E. Kingbird: ten reports; last date 9 Sept Milford (MD). Horned Lark: three reports: one 25 Oct Homer (WB); two 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW); four 20 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Tree Swallow: one report; flock of 30 to 40 5 Oct Owego (FL). Barn Swallow: two reports: one or two thru first week of Sept Oneonta (KW); six 9 Sept OPM (MD). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: common thru; appears to be a very good year for them. Red-breasted Nuthatch: six reports: one Tioga Co, two OPM, four Broome Co; earliest 24 Sept Choconut Center (MS). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 15 reports scattered thru area. Carolina Wren: one report late Oct thru period at a feeding station in e. Vestal (LD). House Wren: common in Sept; last date 28 Sept Delhi (MC). Winter Wren: 12 reports scattered thru area; earliest 19 Sept Broome Co (MS); last 24 Oct Broome Co (MS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 reports scattered thru area; earliest 4 Oct Broome Co (MS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 21 reports scattered thru area; first date 4 Sept OPM (MD); last date 7 Nov Otselic (DM). E. Bluebird: 18 reports scattered thru; last date 31 Oct Middlefield (NB). Veery: several reports in early Sept; last date 16 Sept Vestal (GK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two 26 Sept, one 28 Sept, all banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK); two 28 Sept banded at e. Vestal station (HM); one 7 Nov Brookfield State Forest, Chenango Co (GS). Swainson's Thrush: 39 birds reported, 34 from e. Vestal banding station between 9 Sept and 1 Oct; peak seven per day 25 thru 28 Sept; last date 5 Oct OPM (MD, KW) and Vestal (GK). Hermit Thrush: 30 birds; two 17 Oct Windsor (JS); the rest banded; 14 at an e. Vestal banding station (HM), 14 at a n.c. Vestal banding station (GK); earliest 4 Oct, latest 22 Oct peak 11-15 Oct. Wood Thrush: common thru in Sept and early Oct; last date 15 Oct Vestal. Am. Robin: common thru up to mid-Nov; a few stragglers thru end of period. Gray Catbird: common thru; last date 14 Oct Endwell (FL). No. Mockingbird: 11 reports: all Southern Tier, except one 19-21 Oct Middlefield (MD) and one all Nov Delhi (SC). Brown Thrasher: fairly common Sept thru area; last date 5 Oct OPM (MD, KW). Water Pipit: three reports: eight 8 Oct, 25 17 Oct Meredith (MC); six 25 Oct Homer (WB). Cedar Waxwing: common thru, especially Sept and early Oct, three Nov reports. European Starling: common thru.

**VIREOS--WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: 15 reports: seven Broome Co, seven OPM, one Tioga Co; last date 19 Oct Tioga Co. Yellow-throated Vireo: one report 13 Sept Delhi (MC). Warbling Vireo: six reports: one Broome Co 6 Sept "singing" (MS); one 13 Sept Delhi, last date (MC), one 4 Sept and two 9 Sept OPM (MD). Philadelphia Vireo: six reports: five e. Vestal banded between 1 Sept and 30 Sept (HM); one 4 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, LDe). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru: 88 banded at an e. Vestal Station; last date 15 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: six reports: one 14 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, RB); one 13 Sept and four 18 Sept Vestal (HM). Golden-winged Warbler: none. Tennessee Warbler: 24 reports: three OPM, one Tioga Co, 20 Broome Co. First date 1 Sept; last date 8 Oct. Nashville Warbler: 56 reports: 48 Broome Co; one Tioga Co, one Delhi, six OPM; first date 1 Sept, last date 22 Oct. No. Parula: two 22 Sept Vestal, only report. Yellow Warbler: only two reports: one 8 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB, D & JB); one 29 Sept Middlefield (NB); reports usually low after Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru; last date 8 Oct Vestal (GK). Magnolia Warbler: unusually high; two Tioga Co; 13 OPM, 182 Broome Co, of these 158 at one e. Vestal banding station between 22 Aug and 1 Oct; peak day 28 on 25 Sept (HM). At a n.c. Vestal banding station, five miles away, 16 birds were banded in Sept (GK). Cape May Warbler: 18 reports scattered thru, 1 Sept thru 3 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: seven reports: first 3 Sept Choconut Center (MS); last 30 Sept Oneonta (MD). On 11 Sept a bird in Oneonta was still singing. Yellow-rumped Warbler: high numbers; over 200 birds reported scattered thru between 1 Sept Delhi (MC) and 11 Nov Middlefield (NB); peak early Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: 85 birds reported: last date 6 Oct Middlefield (NB); peak mid-Sept. Blackburnian Warbler: five reports: two 4 Sept OPM (MD), one 15 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); two 20 Sept (T & BW) Vestal and one 22 Sept Vestal (HM). Prairie Warbler: four reports: one 1 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); two 3 Sept Choconut Center (MS); one 8 Sept Vestal (GK). Palm Warbler: six reports: one 1 Sept Tioga Co (C & JB); all other n.c. Vestal banding station, one 23 Sept, three 25 Sept, one 3 Oct (GK). Bay-breasted Warbler: ten reports: four OPM, six Vestal; earliest 3 Sept Vestal; last 25 Sept Vestal. Blackpoll Warbler: ten reports: four Broome Co, six OPM; earliest 9 Sept Vestal (GK), last 8 Oct OPM (MD, KW). Black-and-white Warbler: nine reports: two OPM, one Tioga Co, six Vestal; last 22 Sept Vestal. Am. Redstart: 50 reports: five OPM, two Tioga Co, 43 Broome Co; last date 2 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Ovenbird: 73 reports: one Tioga Co; rest Broome Co; last date 30 Sept Vestal. No. Waterthrush: three reports, all Vestal; one 3 Sept, one 8 Sept and one 12 Sept. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one report 12 Sept Walton (SH). Mourning Warbler: six reports: one Tioga Co; five Broome Co; last date 20 Sept Vestal (GK). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; last date 25 Oct Otselec (DM); 190 banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Hooded Warbler: one Sept Tioga Co (CY). Wilson's Warbler: 31 reports: one Tioga Co, rest Broome Co; first date 3 Sept Vestal (GK), last 2 Oct Vestal (GK). Canada Warbler: 17 reports: one 11 Sept OPM; rest Broome Co; last date 16 Sept Vestal.

**TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS:** Scarlet Tanager: nine reports: one Delhi; one Tioga Co, seven Broome Co, last date 3 Oct Vestal (GK). No. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru during Sept; last date 29 Sept Tioga Co. Indigo Bunting: nine reports: one 11 Sept of 15 birds "in cornfield" OPM (MD); six Vestal, two Tioga Co; last date 17 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru area Sept and Oct; last date 24 Oct Choconut Center (MS). Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru area; first date 29 Oct Vestal (GK). Chipping Sparrow: common thru area, last date 29 Oct Middlefield (NB). Field Sparrow: common thru area; last date 31 Oct Vestal (GK). Vesper Sparrow: one report 22 Oct; bird banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Savannah Sparrow: two reports: one 20 Sept OPM (MD); one 9 Oct Vestal (GK). Grasshopper Sparrow: one report: one 25 Oct banded at n.c. Vestal station (GK). Fox Sparrow: 18 reports scattered thru; first date 19 Oct, OPM (MD, KW); last date 9 Nov OPM (MD, KW). Song Sparrow: common thru; last date 28 Nov Cortland (CW). Lincoln's Sparrow: 13 birds, all Broome Co; 11 banded at n.c. banding station (GK); earliest date 6 Sept Choconut Center (MS); last date 23 Oct Vestal (GK). Swamp Sparrow: 48 reports; five OPM; one Tioga Co, 42 at n.c. Vestal banding station (GK); last date 23 Oct Vestal (GK). White-throated Sparrow: common thru; first 22 Sept Vestal; last 30 Nov Vestal. White-crowned Sparrow: 36 reports scattered thru area; first 4 Oct Middlefield (NB); last 7 Nov Middlefield (NB). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru, first date for obvious migrant flock 15 Oct Vestal. Snow Bunting: a single bird 17 Oct Otselec "following a cold front." (DM). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru; last date 26 Nov Castle Gardens, Broome Co (SP). E. Meadowlark: nine reports: scattered thru; last date 29 Oct N. Pharsalia (DM). Com. Grackle: common thru; last date 26 Nov Windsor (JS). Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru; last date 6 Nov Windsor (JS). No. Oriole: three reports: one Choconut Center 16 Sept (MS), one 4 Sept OPM (MD); one Sept Tioga Co (RB). Purple Finch: in moderate numbers thru area and period. House Finch: common Broome, Cortland and Tioga Cos. in large numbers; numbers increasing from one to two to five to ten Oneonta, Delhi, Middlefield. Pine Siskin: one 24, 26, 27 Sept Delhi (MC); one 31 Oct Tioga Co (RB). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: 11 reports: Broome Co, Chenango Co, Otsego Co., between 14 Nov and 27 Nov. House Sparrow: common thru.

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## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The fall 1982 season was unusually mild. September and October were warm and dry, while November was exceptionally wet. The first killing frost came to Syracuse ten days late on 26 October, and no severely cold weather arrived until the third week of November. Snowfall was under three inches in Syracuse at the end of the season. Everywhere seed, cone and berry crops were exceptionally heavy, and there seemed little reason for wild birds to visit feeders. A prevalence of southerly winds in the early part of the season is why so few heavy migration days were reported. The best period was 26 September to 29 September, when a passing front left Syracuse dripping with migrants. Unfortunately no observers were able to exploit this grounding. After this date only small numbers of migrant warblers and vireos were found and most species had departed in early October. The generally mild weather no doubt is responsible for the very late reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Solitary and Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Bobolink obtained this season.

Gene Huggins reports a possible new fall hawk watch locality on the Tassel Hill ridge east of Waterville, Madison Co. He observed 73 raptors passing in less than three hours on 17 October. Elsewhere, wintering raptors were low in numbers and seldom persistent; no rodent outbreaks were evident. All winter incurative landbirds were either absent or low in numbers and late in arriving, so the coming winter looks to be a dull season. Swallows, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were notably scarce in observers' reports, and the latter two species likewise were at record lows in the October and November feeder surveys conducted by Ben Burtt. Not all species were so affected, as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Vesper Sparrow produced their best flights in recent years. Waterfowl numbers generally were unimpressive and diving ducks were outright scarce. Perhaps this is more due to the mild fall than to a population trend. Shorebirds were similarly reduced in numbers, though high arctic breeders seem to have been less affected than were low arctic species. Excepting Little Gull, there were almost no rarities in this usually productive family.

The event of the fall was the mid-October seabird incursion, which brought moderate numbers of Red Phalarope and jaegers, record numbers of Black-legged Kittiwake (boldfaced this season solely because of their numbers), and a first modern live regional alcid! Most of the flight was associated with the quick passage of cold fronts, and mild weather thereafter led observers to expect an end to the flight. However, a strong front just before Thanksgiving brought more phalaropes, jaegers and kittiwakes, and the first live Northern Gannet for our region. A fuller account of the flight is in preparation by F. G. Scheider. A total of 226 species plus one hybrid were reported this fall. A mid-September field trip to Woods Lake Bog produced all of our breeding boreal species except Three-toed Woodpecker. The great rarities of the season were Northern Gannet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-legged Kittiwake and Thick-billed Murre. A number of less exceptional rarities rounded out the season: Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Purple Sandpiper, Little Gull, Forster's Tern and Connecticut Warbler. Short-billed Dowitcher, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow were surprising misses this season.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and vicinity near Fairhaven, Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; max—maximum(a); mob—multiple observers; NYSARC—report of New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; twsp—township.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr SP 10 Oct, max nine LOL on 25 Nov. Com. Loon: arr Onon Lake 5 Sept, max 25 DH on 16 Oct. Pied-billed Grebe: to eight/day. Horned Grebe: arr Onon Lake 5 Oct, max 43 LSB on 31 Oct, low. Red-necked Grebe: one-three/day LOL 14 to 31 Oct. NORTHERN GANNET: imm DH 24 Nov (GW, NYSARC) and Oswego 28 Nov (DWC, NYSARC) is third regional record, first of a live bird. Double-crested Cormorant: new regional max 217 DH on 16 Oct. Am. Bittern: last DH 10-15 Oct is only report for Fall period. Green-backed Heron: last SP 30 Sept. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm SP on 3 Sept. Tundra Swan: three SP on 11 Nov. Mute Swan: one LSB 24 Oct to 21 Nov. Snow Goose: ten white morph DH 10 Oct; one blue morph Sangerfield 17 Oct. Canada Goose: max 6,200 DH on 10 Oct. Brant: arr 185 DH on 21 Oct, max 1,400 LSB on 24 Oct and 950 DH on 7 Nov. Wood Duck: max 197 Peter Scott Swamp 18 Sept, last Sterling twsp 31 Oct. Green-winged Teal: max 30 Onon Lake on 1 Oct, last LSB on 21 Nov. Am. Black Duck: max 182 DH on 16 Oct. Mallard: max 314 LSB on 21 Nov. No. Pintail: max 250 DH on 21 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 45 SVB on 4 Sept. No. Shoveler: four reported 3 to 16 Oct. Gadwall: max 44 LSB mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Am. Wigeon: max 150 LOL on 28 Oct. Canvasback: arr DH on 16 Oct, max 14 LSB 8 Nov, very low. Redhead: arr DH 15 Oct, max 33 Beaver Lake on 31 Oct, low. Ring-necked Duck: arr Sterling 20 Sept, max 47 LSB 25 to 28 Oct, low. Greater Scaup: arr SP 15 Sept, max 2,350 DH on 15 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr Onon Lake 2 Oct, max 25 LOL on 11 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr DH 16 Oct, max 188 DH 25 Nov, very low. Black Scoter: arr and max 70 DH 15 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr SP 3 Oct, max 377 SP on 15 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr SP on 3 Sept, max 550 DH on 16 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr DH 16 Oct, max 151 LSB on 7 Nov, very low. Bufflehead: arr DH on 16 Oct, max 38 DH on 6 Nov, very low. Hooded Merganser: max 42 Beaver Lake on 21 Nov. Com. Merganser: arr SP 15 Sept, max 30 Beaver Lake on 21 Nov, low. Red-breasted Merganser: arr SP on 30 Sept, max 3,500 LOL on 4 Nov. Ruddy Duck: arr Beaver Lake 5 Oct, new regional max 328 there on 31 Oct (FGS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last DH 23 Oct. Osprey: last Mexico Pt, Oswego Co 24 Oct. Bald Eagle: imm evidently untagged DH 21 Oct (GAS), No. Harrier: to three/day through 11 Nov. No. Goshawk: one LOL 11 Nov only report for fall. Red-shouldered Hawk: one SP on 17 Oct, only report. Broad-winged Hawk: last (three) town of Webb, Herkimer Co., 12 Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: arr SP 7 Oct, max six LOL on 30 Oct. Merlin: two reported mid-Sept. Peregrine Falcon: seven imms reported 17 Sept to 7 Oct. Virginia Rail: last Cay 1 Nov. Sora: last Amboy 8 Sept. Com. Moorhen: last SP 10 Oct. Am. Coot: max 82 LSB on 7 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: about eight reported through 28 Sept, scarce and early departure. Black-bellied Plover: last (two) SP on 8 Nov. Semipalmated Plover: max 20 SVB 11 Sept, last there 31 Oct. Killdeer: max 120 LOL on 9 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: last SP 25 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Sterling twsp on 24 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: one or two per day, last Three Rivers Game Management Area on 9 Oct (FGS) rather late. Spotted Sandpiper: last Onon Lake 26 Sept, early departure. Upland Sandpiper: last (five) Lakeport, Madison Co., 5 Sept (JH). Whimbrel: one SP 9 to 11 Sept (FGS). Hudsonian Godwit: 24 briefly at Onon Lake 15 Sept (FGS, JH), two near Caudenoy, Onon Co., ca. 10 to 15 Oct (mob). Ruddy Turnstone: to four/day, last SVB on 2 Nov. Red Knot: up to five SVB through 29 Sept. Sanderling: max 75 SP 21 Sept, last there 14 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SVB 23 Oct (DKA), late. Western Sandpiper: three Onon Lake 1 Sept, two there the next day. Least Sandpiper: last SP on 14 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: about six reported through 8 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: max 7 SP 3 Sept, last SP on 21 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max only ten Onon Lake 5 Oct, last SVB on 8 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: one DH 24 Nov (GW) and two LSB 28 Nov (DWC). Dunlin: arr SP 9 Sept, max 103 DH on 21 Oct,

last LSB on 18 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: only three reported, last SVB on 14 Oct. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: one by call SP 11 Sept (FGS), second report in last decade. Am. Woodcock: last SP on 6 Nov. Wilson's Phalarope: imms Onon Lake 1 to 4 Sept and 15 Sept, two Biddlecomb, Oswego Co 3 Oct (JH), record late. Red-necked Phalarope: one Onon Lake 7 Sept, another SP 16 Sept, five DH on 21 Oct. Red Phalarope: at least 13 reported LOL 17 Oct to 25 Nov, max 6 SP on 21 Oct. Pomarine Jaeger: four singles DH 15 Oct to 24 Nov. Parasitic Jaeger: total of 44 (plus three unidentified), most DH, 4 Oct to 24 Nov, max 21 on 15 Oct. Little Gull: adult SVB 4 Sept (FGS), adult and subadult SP 25 Sept to 3 Oct (mob), adult DH 10 to 15 Oct, and two adults, one subadult DH on 24 Nov (GW). Glaucous Gull: very late arr SP on 25 Nov, only report. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: unprecedented incursion—one SP 16 Sept, total of 132 DH and SP 10 Oct to 23 Oct, and 13 DH on 24 Nov (GW); the previous regional max was 15 in 1981. Com. Tern: max 550 SP on 16 Sept, last DH on 15 Oct. Forster's Tern: two SP on 30 Sept, three DH on 15 Oct. Caspian Tern: last SP on 30 Oct. Black Tern: five reported, last SP on 21 Sept. And yes, Virginia, there is a regional alcid! A **THICK-BILLED MURRE** landed off DH 21 Oct (FGS, JH, GAS, NYSARC)!

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Cucloos: none. Com. Nighthawk: last SP 5 Sept. Chimney Swift: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last DH 23 Sept. Red-headed Woodpecker: two reported. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 16 Sterling twsp on 26 Sept is new regional max. Yellowbellied Sapsucker: arr Syr 12 Sept, max 16 Sterling twsp on 26 Sept, last Boonville on 1 Nov best flight since 1977. No. Flicker: max 51 Sterling twsp on 26 Sept.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: three reported, last Syr on 9 Oct (MSR), very late. E. Wood-Pewee: last SP 30 Sept. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Willow Flycatcher: last Onon Lake 4 Sept. Least Flycatcher: last Clay 25 Sept. E. Phoebe: last Sterling twsp 24 Oct. Great Crested Flycatcher: last LOL on 11 Sept, early departure. E. Kingbird: last Onon Lake on 20 Sept. Horned Lark: max 30 SP on 30 Oct, rather low. Purple Martin: last SP 6 Sept, early departure. Tree Swallow: max 700 SP 16 Sept is very low, last LSB 14 Nov. Bank Swallow: last SP 16 Sept. Cliff Swallow: last SP 21 Sept, late. Barn Swallow: scarce, last SP 3 Oct. Blue Jay: max 300 Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Am. Crow: max 200 SP on 30 Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: max 150 DH on 28 Oct. Tufted Titmouse: max five Sterling twsp on 31 Oct, but not as common as last fall. Red-breasted Nuthatch: to six/day after 5 Sept, scarce but widespread. Brown Creeper: to ten/day after 9 Sept. House Wren: last Lysander 9 Oct. Winter Wren: to eight/day 6 Sept to 7 Nov. Marsh Wren: last Clay 19 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr LOL 11 Sept, max 70 there on 15 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SP on 11 Sept, max 31 there 15 Oct, last LSB and Holland Patent on 7 Nov, scarce. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last LSB on 1 Oct. E. Bluebird: about 14 reported through 18 Nov. Veery: last LOL 11 Sept. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last LSB 1 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: ditto. Hermit Thrush: to 11/day 25 Sept to 24 Oct. Wood Thrush: last Clay 1 Oct, then one very late at Selkirk Shores State Park on 30 Oct (FGS). Am. Robin: max 300 LOL on 28 Oct. Gray Catbird: last Syr and DH on 19 Oct. Brown Thrasher: last Clay 30 Sept. Water Pipit: to 24/day after 5 Sept. No. Shrike: singles Beaver Lake 24 Oct and Clay 1 Nov.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Solitary Vireo: last (three) SVB 11 Oct, then one Holland Patent on 2 Nov (MS). Yellow-throated Vireo: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Warbling Vireo: last Clay 29 Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: to seven/day, last LOL 3 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last LOL 4 Oct, then one very late at Nine Mile Point on 7 Nov (FGS, MSR). "Brewster's" Warbler: two singles LOL 5 and 6 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: max 59 town of Webb on 12 Sept, last SP 3 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: only three reported 5 to 14 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last Sterling twsp 7 Oct. No. Parula: last SP 3 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last SP 11 Sept, early departure. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Clay 25 Sept. Magnolia Warbler: max 41 Sterling twsp, last SP 11 Oct. Cape May Warbler: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Lysander 5 Oct, then a male Pompey twsp 2 Nov (DWC), record late by one day. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 108 town of Webb 12 Sept (a nesting area) and 69 LOL on 9 Oct, last Holland Patent on 30 Nov, rather scarce. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 63 SVB on

17 Sept, last Lysander 9 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Pine Warbler: four SVB on 17 Sept are a rare report of migrants away from LOL, last DH 23 Sept. Palm Warbler: eight reported 26 Sept to 2 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 43 SVB 17 Sept. last Sterling twsp 7 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: last Sterling twsp 7 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last LSB 1 Oct. Am. Redstart: last SP 3 Oct. Ovenbird: last LSB 1 Oct. No. Waterthrush: last Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Connecticut Warbler: one SP 16 Sept (FGS, JH). Mourning Warbler: three reported (low), last Clay on 1 Oct. Com. Yellowthroat: last Sterling twsp 7 Oct, then singles Mexico Pt. 30 Oct and Clay 1 Nov. Hooded Warbler: new region max 15 Sterling twsp 3 Sept, last there 26 Sept. Wilson's Warbler: last SP 26 Sept. Canada Warbler: last SP 3 Sept.

**TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS:** Scarlet Tanager: last Clay 9 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last LSB 1 Oct. Indigo Bunting: last Lysander 2 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: last SVB 8 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DH 28 Oct, scarce thereafter. Chipping Sparrow: last SP 21 Oct. Field Sparrow: last SP 30 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: arr LOL 4 Oct, max 15 Clay 7 Oct, last Clay 21 Oct, best flight since 1977. Savannah Sparrow: last LOL 22 Oct, Fox Sparrow: only one report away from DWC feeder. Song Sparrow: max 156 Sterling twsp 26 Sept. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Onon Lake 11 Sept, max 11 Clay 24 Sept, last Clay 18 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: max 28 Clay 3 Oct, last there 1 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: max 350 Clay 28 Sept. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL 30 Sept, max 48 Lysander 7 Oct, last SP 30 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Syr 16 Sept, max 63 LSB on 1 Oct, very low. Lapland Longspur: six reported LOL after 3 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr DH 16 Sept. Bobolink: last 18 Oct Clay (FGS), record late (except a 1971 winter specimen). Red-winged Blackbird: max 3,000 Clay 3 Oct. E. Meadowlark: last Sterling twsp 24 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr 18 Sept, max 100 Clay 9 Oct. No. Oriole: last LOL 11 Sept. Purple Finch: arr SP 11 Sept. Am. Goldfinch: max 300 Sterling twsp 7 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr Sterling twsp 24 Oct, very few all fall.

*Corrigenda to Kingbird* Vol. 32: 202-205. No. Hawk-Owl: town of Ohio is in Herkimer Co. Redhead: date for max is 18 Mar, not 18 Apr. White-winged Scoter: 27 Oswego on 15 May in addition to birds reported. Com. Gallinule (Com. Moorhen); arr 25 Apr, not 25 Mar. Tree Swallow: arr 24 Mar, not 24 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr 6 May, not 6 Apr.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Perhaps due to the mild weather, there was a dearth of birds and birders. However, the few reports I received included a creditable complement of species (103) with encouraging representation of Blue Listed forms:

Temperatures were unusually warm and October was relatively dry; there was a good berry and mast crop. The first heavy frost occurred in Canton 23 October and the first and only snow (four inches) fell 6 November. Mean and extreme high and low temperatures (taken at the SUNY Canton ATC farm, as printed in *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*) were as follows: Sept—mean high 68° F (max 85°) mean low 48° (min 34°); Oct—high 58° F (max 72°), low 37° (min 20°); Nov—high 50° F (max 67°), low 35° (min 16°); Total precipitation was: Sept—3.78 in; Oct—1.9 in, one rainfall exceeding one inch; Nov—5.3 in, two rains exceeding one inch.

To summarize the fall migration: Canada Geese arrived 2 September, within one day of the arrival dates for the past two years; there was another good

Brant flight. With no report from Gerry Smith at ElDorado Beach Preserve and Joe VanRiet recouping from Atlas work in Massena, waterfowl and shorebirds were poorly reported. Coverage by Richard Brouse showed shorebirds moving through ElDorado in September and largely gone by 24 October. There were good flights of both kinglets and Water Pipit. No swallow departures, only one wren, no *Catharus* thrushes, and few warblers were reported. Sparrow flights were a week or so early.

Turning to trends, there were few reports for grebes or herons; no No. Goshawk or Merlin, only one Sharp-shinned Hawk (now deceased), but average numbers of Cooper's Hawk. No Gray Partridge, Red-bellied or Red-headed Woodpeckers. Downy Woodpeckers, nuthatches and creepers appear to be up. With regard to winter visitors, Rough-legged Hawks are in evidence, but no Snowy or other open country owls and only one shrike. Winter finches were few and far between, with no Pine Grosbeaks or Redpolls. Snow Buntings arrived 24 October, the mean date for the past three years.

Several unusual species no longer merit bold type: Bald Eagle, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black-backed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, and House Finch now occur regularly at expected times and places. One of the duties of the Regional Editor is to exercise due skepticism, sometimes at the risk of friendships. Such was the case with first reports of Black-backed Woodpeckers from Potsdam and Lisbon last year with one turning up on the Wellesley Island Christmas Count this year, something is clearly going on! Noteworthy is the confirmed, though sadly unsuccessful, breeding of Common Barn-Owls in Jefferson County. Last winter not one but three dead Common Barn-Owls were found near Hannawa Falls by R. Matzell, DEC officer.

For true rarities, I offer Peregrine Falcon, Red-necked Phalarope, and Little Gull.

Abbreviations: EDB—ElDorado Beach Preserve; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: Chris Balfanz (CB), John Barthelme (JB), Richard Brouse (RB), Stewart Brown, Carol Budd, Lee Chamberlaine (LC), Ken Crowell (KC), Buzz Devan, Stephanie and Vic DeGhett (S & VDeG), W. Gordon, John Green (JG), L. Gunn (LG), Mildred and Everett Howard (M & EH), Joan and Dick Kepes, Leslie King, Nick Leone (NL), Diana MacKentley, Jerry Spaziani, June and Bob Walker (JRW), Phil VanDongen (PVD), Joe VanRiet (JVR).

LOONS—DUCKS: *Com.* Loon: one Clear Pond, Clifton 2 Sept (L. King); six in winter plumage at Adams Cove 21 Nov (RB). Horned Grebe: two Adams Cove 21 Nov (RB). Double-crested Cormorant: 14 Ray's Bay, Lake Ontario 18 Sept (LC); three EDB 19 Sept; four EDB 26 Sept. Am. Bittern: two ULLWMA 26 Sept (JB). Tundra Swan: five (two adult, three imm) Chaumont Bay (LG). Mute Swan: three Perch River WMA 22 Nov (LC). Canada Goose: arr Henderson Pond 26 Sept (LC); first flocks in Canton-Potsdam area 25 Sept; strong flights on 4 Oct, then sparse thru 20 Nov; 1,000 in evening flight to ULLWMA 5 Oct. Brant: 40 Pierrepont, 100 Perch River (W. Gordon), 300 Guffin's Bay, Lake Ontario (LG)—all on 7 Nov! Mallard: 1,000 near Kendrew Corner, Dekalb 17 Nov (JG); 50 Pt. Peninsula 28 Nov. Lesser Scaup: 1,000 Black River Bay 21 Nov (RB). *Com.* Goldeneye: eight Pt. Peninsula 28 Nov (RJW).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Clayton and three Dexter 4 Sept; singles Potsdam 24 Sept, Pierrepont 25 Sept, Canton 26 Sept (Kepes). Osprey: two Lakeview WMA 5 Sept; one Perch River WMA 5 Oct (LC). Bald Eagle: one imm Sandy Creek 19 Sept (N. Leone); three (two adult, one imm) Perch River WMA 14 Nov (B. Devan, *fide* LC). No. Har-

rier: regular sightings thru, 23 total; peak during last two weeks of Oct; max three Potsdam 12 Nov (S & VDeG) and five Chaumont 28 Nov (R & JW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at feeder in Canton 20 Nov thru (M & EH). Cooper's Hawk: adult harrying chickens 9 Sept and 10 Nov, imm 24 Oct all Pierrepont (KC); one Henderson 10 Oct (LC). Red-tailed Hawk: 11 of 14 sightings between 5 and 24 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: first Pierrepont 24 Oct—seen four more times thru 19 Nov (KC); max five Hounsfield 28 Nov (R & JW). Am. Kestrel: late singles Adams Cove 21 Nov, Canton 22 Nov. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one Watertown 10 Oct (N. Leone). Ruffed Grouse: numbers down (LC); only three thru (KC); one Potsdam (S & VDeG). Black-bellied Plover: two EDB 26 Sept. Lesser Golden-Plover: one 12 Sept (RB) and one 26 Sept EDB (R & JW). Semipalmated Plover: six to ten EDB 4 to 26 Sept. Killdeer: one to seven EDB 4 to 25 Sept, 25 EDB 24 Oct (RB); 30 Pierrepont 19 Sept, last 6 Nov (KC). Greater Yellowlegs: one EDB 4 Sept. Lesser Yellowlegs: ten EDB 4 Sept, one 25 Sept (RB). Ruddy Turnstone: one EDB 19 Sept (RB). Red Knot: one EDB 4 Sept (RB). Sanderling: 13 on 19 Sept, 35 on 12 and 19 Sept, none thereafter at EDB (RB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 81 on 4 Sept, 100 on 12 Sept, ten 19 Sept, 30 on 25 Sept, none thereafter at EDB (RB). Dunlin: two EDB 25 Sept and 24 Oct. Am. Woodcock: one Canton 3 Oct (C. Budd); one Potsdam 28 Oct (S & VDeG); one Pierrepont 6 Nov. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**: one EDB 4 Sept (RB). **LITTLE GULL**: one EDB 26 Sept (R & JW & mob). Bonaparte's Gull: one EDB 19 Sept, four 26 Sept (RB); 150 Moses-Saunders Dam 9 Nov (JVR). Ring-billed Gull: common at EDB thru (RB); large flocks in Henderson area in warm weather late in period (LC). Herring Gull: three Canton 28 Sept; 50 Potsdam 8 Oct. Great Black-backed Gull: three Southwick Beach State Park 31 Oct; one Pt. Peninsula 28 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: ten (one adult) Moses-Saunders Dam 9 Nov (JVR). Com. Tern: 80 EDB 12 Sept—large concentration, only report (RB).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: 17 regularly in Canton Nov (M & EH). Black-billed Cuckoo: two Clayton 4 Sept (RB). Com. Barn-Owl: three (adult and two young) found dead in silo near Perch River (S. Brown). E. Screech-Owl: one calling at Watertown 9 Sept (R & JW). Great Horned Owl: pair calling Pierrepont 25 Sept, also 2 Oct (KC); one at ULLWMA (JB). No other owls! Com. Nighthawk: four Watertown 4 Sept (RB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Potsdam 3, 4, 12, 20 Sept (S & VDeG); one Langdon Corners Canton 23 Sept (C. Budd); last one Canton 30 Sept (M & EH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one imm Henderson 25 Sept; one Canton 30 Sept. Downy Woodpecker: three Potsdam 2 Oct; two males Pierrepont 20 Nov; pair Canton thru. Hairy Woodpecker: one Potsdam 1 and 29 Sept, 1 and 9 Nov (S & VDeG); pair Canton thru (M & EH); Black-backed Woodpecker: male Clear Pond, Clifton 2 Sept (L. King); female Potsdam 3 Oct (S & VDeG). Pileated Woodpecker: one Colton 10 Oct (C. Budd), only report.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: E. Wood-Pewee: two Canton Sept (M & EH). E. Phoebe: two Canton Sept; one Potsdam 12 Oct; last two Pierrepont 23 Oct. E. Kingbird: five Canton Sept (M & EH). Horned Lark: 20 Pierrepont 8 Nov (KC)—only report. Blue Jay: one to two Potsdam thru; frequent sightings mid-Oct thru (KC); fewer than last year (LC). Am. Crow: increasing Sept thru early Nov; five Potsdam late Sept, 25 Potsdam 3 Oct, max 100 Potsdam 28 Oct; 1-200 Pierrepont 25 Oct to 5 Nov (KC). Com. Raven: one Sevey Corners 7 Oct (D. Crumb); 15 to 17 feeding on deer entrails south of Cranberry Lake 8 to 14 Nov (LC); three Fine 10 Nov (DS). Black-capped Chickadee: increasing thru; four to 12 at feeders. Tufted Titmouse: one (first since 18 April) Henderson at feeder 19 Sept, three 25 Sept (two banded last winter), then two thereafter (LC); two Watertown 13 Nov (R & JW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Henderson 25 Oct, two in Canton thru (M & EH). White-breasted Nuthatch: one to two Potsdam (DeG) and Pierrepont (KC) thru; three Potsdam 10 Nov (S & VDeG); four Canton thru (M & EH). Brown Creeper: four Henderson 26 Sept (LC); one Canton 23 Oct (CB); one Canton thru (M & EH). Marsh Wren: one ULLWMA 5 Oct (KC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Canton 27 Sept, six Canton 23 Oct (CB); three Henderson 25 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three ULLWMA 5 Oct; one on 3 Oct, eight Henderson 10 Oct (LC); one Pierrepont 4 Oct. E. Bluebird: seven Pierrepont 18 Sept; one to three Pierrepont 10, 16, 17, 28 Oct (KC), only reports. Am. Robin: 40 Potsdam 3 Oct; flocking at ULLWMA 5 Oct (KC); last ten Canton 12 Nov (M & EH); one at feeder Watertown 26 Nov (RB). Gray Catbird: last Potsdam 2 Oct (S & VDeG). Brown Thrasher: one EDB 12

Sept (RB). Water Pipit: 15 EDB 12 Sept—most seen here in three years (RB); 30 Pierrepont 4 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: 40 Potsdam, 1, 7 Sept; 100 Canton 23 Oct; 200 in four flocks Henderson 25 Oct; many small flocks Southwick Beach State Park 31 Oct (LC). Shrike (sp?): one Rensselaer Falls 17 Nov (JG), only report.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 Henderson 25 Sept (LC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Pierrepont 13 Sept, dep 10 Nov; many EDB 25 Sept, 30 at EDB 24 Oct (RB). Am. Redstart: one Canton 27 Sept (CB).

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: No. Cardinal: one to two Potsdam 3 Sept thru 14 Oct (S & VDeG); two pair Canton thru (M & EH). Am. Tree Sparrow: two Pierrepont 7 Nov; arr Henderson 20 Nov; scarce. Chipping Sparrow: three Pierrepont 18 Oct. Fox Sparrow: one Potsdam 1 Nov (S & VDeG). Song Sparrow: movement in Canton-Potsdam area 25 Sept thru 5 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: one ULLWMA 5 Oct (KC). White-throated Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 3 Oct; rapid light movement (LC); 12 Canton at feeder Nov (M & EH). White-crowned Sparrow: also rapid flight in early Oct; five Potsdam 2 Oct (DeG); seven Canton at feeder in Nov (M & EH). Dark-eyed Junco: very few; two Potsdam 3 and 5 Oct; three Henderson 24 Oct; two Canton Nov (M & EH). Snow Bunting: arr five So. Colton 23 Oct (JG); 40 EDB 24 Oct (RB); 25 Robert Moses State Pk. 19 Nov; 30 Potsdam 27 Nov. E. Meadowlark: two ULLWMA 5 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: one ULLWMA 19 Oct (PVD); one Canton Oct (M & EH). Com. Grackle: 40 Potsdam 14 Sept. Brown-headed Cowbird: ten Canton Sept. Purple Finch: six Potsdam 1 to 10 Sept, two thru 8 Oct, one on 1 Nov (S & VDeG); eight thru in Canton (M & EH); seven Canton 7 Nov (PVD). House Finch: four thru Canton (M & EH); one Henderson 25 Sept, six to eight per day thru, max 20 Henderson 20 Nov (LC)—definitely here to stay. Pine Siskin: five Canton in Nov, only report (M & EH). Am. Goldfinch: many Canton-Pierrepont late Sept; six Potsdam early Sept, decreasing to two in mid-Oct (S & VDeG); 15 to 20 Canton thru (M & EH); increasing at feeder thru (LC). Evening Grosbeak: arr ten Canton 3 Nov; flocks of 50 to 80 later in month; 12 Henderson 27 Nov.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

The fall weather for the most part was ridiculously warm. We did have some cold nights in early November when ice formed on the quiet waters for perhaps a week to ten days, but this was followed by an unseasonably warm stretch that lasted into early December. It even fooled a few Wood Frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) into giving their mating calls at Paul Smiths when the ice thawed. This is not a sound to be expected in November, but is to be expected as the first Adirondack amphibian to be heard in spring, even preceding the Spring Peeper (*Hyla crucifer*). On 3 December the temperature was well into the fifties. This warm trend may have kept winter finches to the north, as they were rather scarce.

At the time of this writing the temperature is -22° F so more normal weather for the time of year has arrived. The inland lakes are frozen this second week of December and waterfowl are confined to moving water or have left for Lake Champlain or elsewhere. Some good summer waterfowl records are included in this report. The results of a Wood Duck box project are especially interesting. There were a few varieties, from more southern visitors, to unusual migrants for our area. The northern specialties are well-represented with even the elusive Spruce Grouse listed.

Observers: Mary Anne Allen, Cathy Andrews, Merry Baker, Ray Brousseau, John Bruce,

Geoffrey Carleton, Richard Cardin, Barbara Carman, Bernard Carman, David Chapin (DCh), Janet Chapman, Greenleaf Chase (GCh), Dean Cook, Charlie Delehanty, David Dudones, Tom Dudones, Peter Frye, Mark Gretch, Elsbeth Johnson, Bruce Landon, Ted Mack, Eileen McKenna, Robert McKinney (RMck), Dawn Middleton, Ruth Miller, Daniel O'Keefe, Kathryn O'Keefe, John Peterson, Roslyn Poznanski, Jane Reed, M & G Reese, William Rutherford, Jr., Carole Slatkin, Armand Vaillancourt, Maurice Villeneuve, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Ed Worthington, and Julia Woodard.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** There were ten Com. Loons on Tupper Lake 26 Sept and one on 28 Sept (CD). A pair on Lake Lila still had flightless young 17 Sept (DO, KO, JP). Two Horned Grebes, one in winter and one in summer plumage, were at Ausable Point 28 Aug (TD, DD). The only Pied-billed Grebe was one at Tupper 9 Nov (CD). A Double-crested Cormorant was at Long Pond in the Floodwood area 26 Sept (TM, CA). This seemed extremely out of place. They are seen each year on Lake Champlain but not on inland lakes. Two Green-backed Herons were at Westport 28 Aug. An imm Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Westport 28 Aug (TD). The first Canada Geese migrants were two flying low down the course of the Boreas River near Tahawus 12 Sept. The main flights were 28 Sept to 7 Oct. MG saw a pair with one young at Lake Alice 20 June. A scaup was on Lower Saranac 26 Sept. Tupper Lake records include five young Ring-necked Ducks 1 Sept; seven Com. Goldeneyes 11 Nov; five Buffleheads 17 Oct; six Oldsquaws 24 Oct (MV); 22 Hooded Mergansers 27 Nov; and five Com. Mergansers 21 Sept. These are the high counts as reported by CD. Three female Buffleheads and a White-winged Scoter were at Westport 19 Nov (TD). Mark Gretch gave an interesting report on the use of 12 Clinton Co. duck nest boxes. Three on the Little Chazy River were used by Hooded Mergansers, two elsewhere near Lake Champlain were used by Com. Goldeneyes, and one at King's Bay was used by a Wood Duck. A female Com. Goldeneye with seven young was at Chazy Landing 30 June (MG).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported and three Cooper's Hawks were seen. There were four Red-tailed Hawks but no Red-shouldered reported. An early Rough-legged Hawk passed Coot Hill 4 Oct (JB) and RP saw one at Keene 19 Oct, both are early. Bald Eagle: one adult Fish Creek 6 June (JR) and two imms at nearby Saranac Inn 18 July (GCh, EW). No. Harrier: one Ray Brook 2 Nov (TD) and one Tupper 30 Sept (CD). Fifteen Peregrine Falcon chicks were hatched in Clinton and Essex Cos. this year. JP reports one of these was caught and released at a banding station on Assateague Island. CD found a beautiful black male Spruce Grouse at Sabattis 3 Oct. It had the rusty tail band and red over the eye, and was quite tame. This is a good find. The bird has been extremely rare for a few years in this region. Three others saw all the field marks. Two Ring-necked Pheasants were at a Tupper feeder 29 Nov (MV). Two Com. Moorhens spent all summer at Chazy Landing (MG). Semipalmated Plover: one King's Bay 28 Aug (MG); one Westport 11 Sept and another Bulwagga Bay 19 Sept (GC); several Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD). Lesser Golden-Plover: several at Willsboro 17 Sept (GC, EJ); three Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD). Black-bellied Plover: two Point au Fer 19-25 Sept (TD); three Bulwagga Bay 29 Sept (GC). Ruddy Turnstone: 15 Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD). Com. Snipe continues scarce altho nine were at Bulwagga Bay 7 Oct. There were a few Solitary Sandpipers, quite a few Greater Yellowlegs (even at Paul Smiths and McColloms) and a few Lesser Yellowlegs. Four stocky gray Red Knots were at Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD) and two King's Bay 28 Aug (MG). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in considerable numbers on a fairly large mud flat of a drained pond at McColloms. There was a single Dunlin at Point au Fer 25 Sept (TD) and three at Bulwagga 29 Sept (GC). **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** 24 in changing, to full winter plumage, noticeably longer bill with droop at tip and thicker base than other peep, 25 Sept at Point au Fer (TD). Red-necked Phalarope: one Kings Bay 26 Aug (MG); one Westport 28 Aug (TD, DD); and one on Tupper Lake, of all places, 26 Sept (CD). There were 25 early Bonaparte's Gulls at Monty's Bay 4 Aug (MG). Five Black Terns were at Chazy Landing 30 June.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** A Mourning Dove was at Tupper feeder 16 Nov. There were plenty of Great Horned and Barred Owls. One of the former lives behind my house and three of the latter live across the road and behind the hill in the opposite direction. On

1 Oct Great Horned, Barred, and Long-eared Owls were calling at Tub Mills Pond (MA, CW). A No. Saw-whet Owl was calling near Elizabethtown in late Sept (EJ, JP) and thru Oct near Paradox (MB). EMcK had a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2 Oct at Tupper and one was still at Westport the first week of Oct (M & CR). Quite a few migrant No. Flickers passed thru the last week of Sept and there were plenty of Pileated Woodpeckers. Robert McKinney had 20 Hairy to five Downy Woodpeckers the second week of Nov at Indian Lake. A Red-headed Woodpecker was in no. Clinton Co. 13 June (MG) and CD found an imm 26 Oct at Tupper. Black-backed Woodpecker: two wandering females were at Willsboro Point 21 Sept (RM); one on Tabletop Mountain 16 Oct (TD); one along Halfway Brook 27 Oct (TD); one Osgood Pond 31 Oct (TM, DM). Three-toed Woodpecker: one female at Amper-sand Mountain 11 Oct (TD).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** a very late Great Crested Flycatcher was at Tupper 23 Sept (CD). High Peaks Audubon Newsletter for Nov 1982 has a nice write-up about the first Essex Co. **WILLOW FLYCATCHER**. It was heard and seen 18-20 July at Essex Station by CS. A Least Flycatcher was still at Tupper 2 Sept (CD). A Horned Lark was at Ray Brook 2 Nov (TD) and two were near Wadhams 9 Nov (EJ, JP). One was at Indian Lake in mid-Nov (RMCK). Gray Jays were at Halfway Brook, Sabattis, and Brandon. Practically everyone saw and heard Com. Ravens and Boreal Chickadees. Tupper Lake is usually not the place to look for a Tufted Titmouse but two came to the Delehanty feeder 29 Oct and three were there the next day. Two were still there on 30 Nov. This is only the third record CD has for this species at Tupper. There were an unusual number of White-breasted Nuthatches in late Nov. Quite a few Brown Creepers were moving thru the hardwoods on Scar-face Mountain at Ray Brook 25 Nov. A pair of Sedge Wrens spent the summer in no. Clinton Co. from 7 June to 20 Aug (MG). Four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Ausable Point 29 Aug (MG). There were lots of Golden-crowned Kinglets. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Indian Lake the second week of Nov (RMCK) and CD had one at Tupper 14 Nov. There were still 30 Cedar Waxwings at Bloomingdale 5 Nov.

**VIREOS-WARBLES:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was at the Great Chazy River 17 July (MG) and a very late one was at Tupper 27 Sept (CD). A Solitary Vireo was half-heartedly singing at Paul Smiths in early Oct. Another was in full song at Paradox 16 Oct (MB) and one was at Tupper 17 Oct. Two Philadelphia Vireos were at Tupper 23 Sept (CD). The same observer had the following warbler observations from Tupper: Black-and-white Warbler singing 13 Sept; Tennessee Warbler 23 Sept; Yellow Warbler 7 Sept; and Yellow-rumped Warbler 6 Nov. EJ and JP spotted a Wilson's Warbler at Elizabethtown on 9 Sept.

**TANAGERS-HOUSE SPARROWS:** No E. Meadowlarks were reported. There were still 12 Red-winged Blackbirds at Tupper on 30 Nov. Two Rusty Blackbirds were at Tupper 17 Oct (CD). Brown-headed Cowbirds were still at both Paul Smiths and Tupper at the end of the period. A Scarlet Tanager was at Tupper 7 Oct (CD). There were only three No. Cardinals at Tupper. Bloomingdale had one. The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported was one at Tupper 30 Sept (CD). By late Nov there were a few Purple Finches at one Paul Smiths feeder. Rouses Point had a pair of House Finches (MG) and a few were at Ticonderoga (WR). Pine Grosbeaks and Com. Redpolls were absent. No Pine Siskins were reported either, but Am. Goldfinches were plentiful most places. There were a few Red Crossbills at Paul Smiths but these may have been locals. There were seven at Jones Pond 23 Nov. White-winged Crossbill was absent. There was something unusual going on in the Rufous-sided Towhee department in Oct because they showed up in places where they are not to be expected. One was at Bloomingdale 11 Oct (WR); one in my back yard 12 Oct (this is unreported from Paul Smiths for at least ten years); and one at Paradox 25 Oct (MB). The first Am. Tree Sparrows were two at Tupper 1 Nov (CD). One White-crowned Sparrow arrived there 23 Sept. They were scarce. CD had two White-throated Sparrows 30 Nov; the only Fox Sparrows reported were two on 17 Oct; and a late Lincoln's Sparrow 10 July at the Gulf which is in Clinton Co. on the Canadian border. The county needs a breeding record. This area should be watched. Snow Buntings were seen at Bay Pond and Indian Lake. The first were at Saranac Lake 24 Oct (DCh, TD).

*Corrigendum:* The 5 March 1981 Gyrfalcon by DC should be corrected to 19 Feb.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 -- HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

With temperatures remaining reasonably mild and good wild food reserves noted, there is no wonder that there have been fewer reports of boreal species this fall than last. Exceptions include a Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting and early Lapland Longspurs. The warm weather accompanied by little or no rain would seem to make excellent fall birding but the number of observers reporting fell this season. These two conditions have resulted in a meager tally of 150 species compared to 191 for last year's fall report. Among the missing are several raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, swallows and, alas, no September goatsuckers. Perhaps the institution of a Sentimental September Census Day to bid farewell to our retreating avifauna would provide a better data base for this, the only season without a major birding event.

Wild Turkeys seem to be uprising in native American fashion as sportsmen in the Hillsdale area exclaim that they are displacing ever scarcer Ring-necked Pheasants and . . . intimidating deer?

From the southern shores of chilly Lake George comes the rarity of the season. Thanks to Mike Peterson we have Kathryn O'Keefe's report of a female Harlequin Duck which was carefully observed on 18 October near her camp at Assembly Point. This bird will be featured in Mike's list of "Birds of the Adirondack Park."

The banding records reported here are all from Greene Co. and a few interesting discoveries are worth noting. A male hatch year Black-throated Blue Warbler had acquired full adult plumage by October while a Veery with juvenal plumage had completely ossified its skull by 26 September. Birds normally molt their juvenal feathers before the completion of skull ossification and fall Black-throated Blue Warblers with bright spring plumage would normally be considered older than hatch year. Two Cedar Waxwings banded had orange tail bands like the Japanese race.

A hatch year Yellow-rumped Warbler observed begging during migration on 27 October in New Baltimore leads one to suspect that birds other than terns may migrate in family groups. With only five sandpipers reported, a White-rumped in a downtown location is significant. It was found in the drained duck pond of Schenectady's Central Park.

Good Birding and may your favorite heifer befriend a migrating Cattle Egret.

Contributors: Larry Biegel (LB), William Cleveland, Bill Cook, Peter Feinberg (PF), Richard Guthrie (RG), Bob Marx (BM), Tom Palmer, Mike Peterson (MP), Jon Powell (JP), Walt Sabin (WS), Shirley Schadow and Robert Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: A Red-throated Loon was seen at Tomhannock in mid-Sept. Pied-billed Grebes were seen on 26 Sept in New Baltimore and 11 Oct at Featherstonhaugh L Montgomery Co. 13 Double-crested Cormorants were seen on 12 Sept at Embough Bay and one on 10 Oct in New Baltimore was soaring very high. 21 reports of Great Blue Heron thru. Four Green-backed Herons reported in Sept. Great Egret: two on the Mohawk R 3 Sept and four on 20 Sept; another at Stockport Flats 18 Oct. A Least Bittern and an Am. Bittern were also found at Stockport on 18 Oct (LB). Canada Goose: max 600 Central Br Oct. Brant: Embough Bay 20 Sept thru. 25 Snow Geese flew over the Embough on 15 Nov (JP).

Large flights of Mallards were observed over the Embough but Am. Black Duck numbers were down. About 200 No. Pintails and 25 Green-winged Teals were on the Embough 5 Nov. Four Blue-winged Teals were at Stockport 18 Oct. An artificially created wetland in Catskill supported a breeding population of Wood Ducks found to be in excess of 200 this fall. Ring-necked Duck: one Featherstonhaugh L 11 Oct. Good flights of Canvasbacks numbering 25-30 birds noted at the Embough from 20 Oct. 15 Buffleheads were there on 5 Nov and three were in Central Br that month. **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: female Lake George 18 Oct (*fide* MP). Scoters appear in small numbers during spring and fall migration. This fall an imm White-winged Scoter was seen on the Mohawk R 30 Nov (TP). Com. Merganser: five Embough 5 Nov.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS**: Four reports of Turkey Vulture thru; max 20 Kiskatom. A Sharp-shinned Hawk raided a blackbird flock in Cocksackie 10 Oct. Another was at Palmer's Ravine 11 Oct where a Cooper's Hawk visited 6 Nov. High mouse populations reportedly have kept local Red-tailed Hawk numbers soaring. A late Broad-winged Hawk was reported from Cocksackie 30 Nov with no sign of Rough-legged Hawks at that time. Two Bald Eagle reports: Delmar 9 Sept and Saratoga L mid-Oct. No. Harrier: one Stockport 18 Oct; Palmer's Ravine 4-23 Oct. Nine Ospreys reported: latest in Central Br Oct. Numbers of Am. Kestrels decreasing at Palmer's Ravine thru. Ruffed Grouse: 25 Schoharie Co. in Oct; 11 in Nov. Two male Ring-necked Pheasants escaped hunters by feeding beside Rt. 23 in Hudson 18 Oct; two more Central Br Oct. Wild Turkeys reported from Central Br, Embough Rd. and Hillsdale thru. Virginia Rail: one Stockport 18 Oct. Killdeer reported into Oct; max 80 Cocksackie 10 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plovers did descend this fall with six or more sighted in Cocksackie 11 Oct and another in Watervliet (RG). Two Am. Woodcocks from Central Br in Oct and a Com. Snipe from Stockport 18 Oct were reported. Two Spotted Sandpipers and a Solitary Sandpiper were observed in Schoharie Co in Sept. Another Solitary joined a White-rumped Sandpiper in Schenectady's Central Park on 2 Sept (BM). Greater Yellowlegs: one at the Embough 12 Sept and another at Stockport 18 Oct. Semipalmated Sandpiper: three Mohawk R 3 Oct. An Iceland Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull are again reported from the Colonie Landfill 13 Oct (WS). Herring and Ring-billed were the only other gulls reported.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Rock and Mourning Doves reported from Central Br and Palmer's Ravine thru. A Black-billed Cuckoo was banded in Sept. An E. Screech-Owl in a Braumantville sycamore may be returning to the winter home it occupied Dec.-Feb last year. Six reports of Great Horned Owl thru. Snowy Owl: Delmar 15 Nov. Barred Owl: Jenny L 3 Oct. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird zipped past the Embough 12 Sept. At least nine reports of Belted Kingfisher, which like the No. Flicker, declined in numbers thru. Pileated Woodpecker: one Central Br Oct, three in Nov; four Palmer's Ravine thru. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was last seen in Palmer's Ravine 10 Sept but one was found in Albany 8 Nov. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was banded in Nov. Two Hairy Woodpeckers were banded in Oct-Nov while six Downy Woodpeckers were banded in the same period.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: E. Kingbird: last seen Palmer's Ravine 10 Sept. Flycatchers banded in Sept were one E. Phoebe, three Yellow-bellied, two Traill's, six Least and two E. Wood-Pewees. Late feeding of pewee young was observed in New Baltimore in Sept. Horned Lark: 25 Cocksackie 10 Oct. The only swallows for the period were Tree Swallow: Palmer's Ravine 5 Sept; one Embough 12 Sept. At least 17 reports of Blue Jays include one banded in Oct. Two Com. Ravens were observed near Hunter in the Catskills on 7 Nov (PF). Am. Crow: Central Br, Palmer's Ravine and Claverack thru. 14 Black-capped Chickadees and six Tufted Titmice banded thru. Six White-breasted Nuthatches were banded Sept-Oct and they outnumbered Red-breasted Nuthatches in Central Br at least five to two in Nov. Brown Creeper: eight reports. Wren banding included eight House Wrens Sept-Oct, the first Winter Wren in seven years at New Baltimore Oct and five adult Marsh Wrens in Embough Bay 13 Sept. Another Winter Wren was observed at Palmer's Ravine 9 Oct. No. Mockingbird: Central Br Oct; Claverack 30 Nov. 72 Gray Catbirds banded in Sept, ten more in Oct. Brown Thrasher: one Embough 12 Sept. Thrush banding included five Am. Robins thru, 11 Wood in Sept, 17 Hermit thru, 51 Swainson's in Sept, four more in Oct and seven

Veerys in Sept. Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed at Palmer's Ravine 11 Oct; the banding ratio was two to four. Water Pipit: at least 100 Cocksackie 10 Oct; one Palmer's Ravine 5-9 Oct; Schoharie Res 24 Oct. Cedar Waxwing numbers decreasing thru period at Palmer's Ravine and Central Br; 13 banded in Sept, three in Oct. European Starlings observed in winter flocks of several hundred by 13 Nov Selkirk. Yellow-throated Vireo: one Palmer's Ravine 6 Sept. Vireo banding records for Sept-Oct include four Solitary, 49 Red-eyed, 14 Philadelphia and one Warbling. Warbler banding included one Black-and-white Sept, six Tennessee Sept, six Nashville Sept-Oct, ten Magnolia Sept, two Black-throated Blue Oct, 20 Yellow-rumped Oct, 15 Black-throated Green Sept-Oct, four Chestnut-sided Sept, one Blackpoll Sept (down significantly), two Palm Sept-Oct, four Ovenbirds Sept, two Mourning Sept, 16 Com. Yellowthroats thru, five Wilson's Sept, six Canada Sept and six Am. Redstarts Sept. In addition, a Yellow Warbler was observed at the Embough 12 Sept and a Prairie Warbler was found dead on the road in Westerlo in early Sept to bring the warbler count to 18 (23 in 1981, 18 in 1980).

**TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: Central Br, Palmer's Ravine and Claverack thru. Bobolink: Palmer's Ravine 6 Sept. More than ten reports of E. Meadowlark thru 10 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: three banded in Sept. A No. Oriole has been visiting a Sand Lake feeder since 28 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: six Catskill 1 Nov (LB). Com. Grackle reported thru 18 Sept Resist Sanctuary. Brown-headed Cowbird: Palmer's Ravine Sept. Scarlet Tanager: 14 banded in Sept; feeding young at Jenny L. 6 Sept. No. Cardinal: four banded Oct-Nov. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks left in Sept when 30 were banded and four Evening Grosbeaks were in Braumanville by 28 Oct. Purple Finches arrived at Featherstonhaugh L on 11 Oct. House Finch: Palmer's Ravine feeder thru. Pine Siskin: one Amsterdam 5 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: 24 banded; local breeders still feeding young at New Baltimore 9 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: one banded Oct. More than 20 Savannah Sparrows found at Cocksackie 10 Oct. 23 Dark-eyed Juncos banded beginning 5 Oct. The earliest Am. Tree Sparrow banded was 27 Oct followed by four in Nov. Four Field Sparrows banded thru. An adult and an imm White-crowned Sparrow were found in a Cocksackie field edge 10 Oct; one Palmer's Ravine 2 Oct. Other sparrows banded include 211 White-throated with 30 max on 5 Oct; seven Fox in Oct, two in Nov; two Lincoln's in Sept; one Swamp in Sept, five in Oct and 20 Song thru. Three Lapland Longspurs were found among the pipits in Cocksackie 10 Oct. The first Snow Bunting report of the season is 12 Nov from the Niskayuna landfill.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The New York Weather Bureau reported September as the coolest in seventeen years, making the warm days to come in October and November unexpected. Killing frosts did not come to the lowlands until late October, and katydids and crickets continued to call far into November. At this writing in late December, the Hudson River and lakes of the region are still unfrozen. Precipitation was well below normal for the period, bringing a return to the drought conditions of the past several years. Reservoirs again returned to dangerously low levels for the communities they serve, but were excellent for shorebirds, especially in northern Westchester. No appreciable amount of snow fell and fruit and seed production was good. Perhaps similar conditions of food and weather prevailed farther north, for winter finches and other northern migrants were well

below expectations. Only a few reports of Evening Grosbeaks came in and then only one or a few birds. Waterfowl movements were good, but numbers of most hawk species were down. Broad-wings apparently went through over a broad front and disappointing numbers were reported at all hawk watches, even those with increased man-hours. The report of the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch was not available at this writing. Shorebird movements were fair to good as mentioned before, but warbler movements were only average. Several reporters said species were good but there were no large numbers. Frank Murphy reported excellent night flights heard on 1, 7 and 24-25 September, whereas Bob Deed had the same experience in Nyack on 22 and 24 September. Peak warbler movements were observed in Dutchess on 6-7, 12 and 24 September.

Rarities for the period include: Red-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Baird's Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Am. Avocet, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, California Gull, Snowy Owl, Com. Raven, No. Shrike, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Dickcissel and Lapland Longspur.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Frank Nicoletti, Jack Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSc), Benton Seguin (BSe), John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Otis Waterman, and Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; BSHW—Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Mt. Kisco; CB—Cornwall Bay; EP—Esopus Point; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPH—Mount Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; PL—Playland, Rye; WSF—Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island; the first four or five letters of each county.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: exc. movement reported thru period. First two adults and one imm feeding within three feet of each other on Ashokan 5 Sept. Max more than 50 there 24 Oct; gone by 28 Nov. As many as three on Orange L from 19 Oct-20 Nov. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Ashokan 19 Oct, inc to two 23 Oct (AB); last there 24 Oct (FM). Horned Grebe: first at PL 5 Oct. Exc numbers on Ashokan till 28 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: more than 20 at EP 2 Nov. Great Cormorant: three moving over MC 18 Sept were in the company of 15 Double-crested Cormorants, for which there were more reports than ever on the Hudson and nearby fresh water lakes. Max 106 at Piermont Pier 1 Oct, equaled the previous high there of 28-29 Sept, 1978. One remained at Croton Pt thru 31 Oct; last at CB 14 Nov; 17 were at Kingston Point 1 Sept, nine at Vanderberg Cove 10 Oct, and three on the Hudson there 20 Oct. Great Blue Heron: 22 roosting regularly at PL in mid-Oct. Little Blue Heron: one at MC 29 Sept remained there with another bird thru Oct. Great Egret: one Rockland L 31 Oct was only four days short of their latest record in 1956. One at Washington L Newburgh 20, 21 Nov was very late for Oran. Snowy Egret: last at Croton Point 21 Oct. **TRICOLORED HERON:** an adult at CB 12, 13 and 19 Sept (Lewis & Eliz Dumont). Black-crowned Night-Heron: two imm at CB 19-25 Sept. Glossy Ibis: one near Goshen 30 Aug, and three near Galeville Airport in mid-Nov (JT). Mute Swan: inc to 89 at CB by 28 Nov. Canada Goose: an excellent migration thru much of the period, with resident numbers still up by end of period. Max 1,500 over Mohonk 10 Oct. Brant: more than 20 over BS, Mt. Kisco 14 Oct. Fifty over Norrie State Pk, Dutch 10 Nov. Snow Goose: 80 over Bear Mt. 29 Sept. 95 over Hook Mt. 30 Sept, and a flock over Nyack the night of 1 Oct were all early dates. 14 including two Blue Morphs were over Mt. Peter 3 Oct. 200 over Pleasant Valley and 100 over the Hudson in Dutch on 8 Oct. One was with many Canadas at Amenia 6 Nov. 100 were in a farm field at LaGrange 15 Nov, and 39 at Pine Plains 5 Nov. No. Pintail: one at Stony Pt. 27 Nov was unusual for Rock. Green-winged Teal: max 25 Ashokan 28 Oct. Am. Wigeon: more than 20 at CB thru Sept until hunters drove them out; 25 at Iona I 19 Nov. Wood Duck: exceptional numbers at Bashakill. More than 80 there 12 Sept, 28 at Iona I 24 Oct. Redhead: always rare. Two males at the end of Piermont Pier 20 Nov. A male at EP 27 Oct inc to five 4 Nov and six 25 Nov; gone 28 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: fall migra-

tion never as good as spring, but more than 200 at Abel's in Dutch 14 Nov. Canvasback: arr 13 Nov, and rapidly reached more than 5,000 at CB 21 Nov. Smaller flocks to 200 each were farther north and south on the Hudson. Greater Scaup: numbers to 2,000 at PL after mid-Oct. Lesser Scaup: 13 at Orange L 19, 20 Oct and CB 13 Nov. Oldsquaw: four males at Rondout Res 9 Nov, and a single male at CB 10 Nov. White-winged Scoter: three at CB 10 Nov. Surf Scoter: one at Newburgh 5 Nov and one early bird on Kiamesha L 17 Oct. Black Scoter: 75 at CB 10 Nov; eight Ashokan 14 Nov and 30 at EP 13 Nov. Ruddy Duck: more than 300 on the Hudson at Piermont 20 Nov where they probably will winter; remained on Orange L 19 Oct-5 Nov with a max of 28 on 25 Oct. Eight were at EP 2 Nov inc to a max of 14 21 Nov, a very high number for the upper Hudson. Hooded Merganser: 12 at CB 14 Nov. Com. Merganser: two females at CB 9 Oct were very early, but the 15 on Rondout Res 29 Aug are truly extraordinary (JO). Red-breasted Merganser: a max of 40 at PL 24 Oct.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Results from only two hawk watches were received; one from Butler Sanctuary near Mt. Kisco, and the other from Mount Peter near Warwick. Some of their findings are included here. Turkey Vulture: most gone by first week of Nov, rarely reported thereafter. No. Goshawk: three at Mt. Peter 14 Nov broke the daily record there, as did the total of 12 for the season. BSHW had 11 for their season. Sharp-shinned Hawk: the 1,445 at MPHWS was on the low side of normal. Cooper's Hawk: MPHWS had 34 for the season which was about half their record high of last year. BSHW had 32 with a max of nine 25 Sept. Red-tailed Hawk: MPHWS broke its record high of 163 last year with 196 9 Nov. Their total for the season was 708. Red-shouldered Hawk: MPHWS had a total of 54. Movement seemed to peak 23 Oct when nine were observed there. Broad-winged Hawk: very disappointing numbers. Max at MPHWS was 1,013 19 Sept. The total for the year was 5,223, only half of last year. Rough-legged Hawk: only one at MPHWS 14 Oct was it for the region hawk watches. Three others were observed over Haight Hill in Dutch 2 Oct. Golden Eagle: missed completely at MPHWS, but two 15 Oct on BSHW. One was over Mohonk, 16 Oct, and an imm was at Tamarack Swamp Dutch 25 Nov. Bald Eagle: four on MPHWS tied their previous record of 1970. BSHW had three for the season. There were several scattered reports of individual birds elsewhere in the region. No. Harrier: the 95 on MPHWS was well above average and just below their record of two years ago. Osprey: numbers generally down from last year, but not bad, 148 on MPHWS was average, BSHW had 145. Max passage was during the last two weeks of Sept. Three were obs in the same tree beside the Sprain Brook 17 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: the six on MPHWS was one less than last year's high. Three were on BSHW. Merlin: six on MPHWS and four on BSHW. Am. Kestrel: an all time low for recent years was 211 on MPHWS. Record high last year was 592. BSHW had 226 in half the observer hours as Mount Peter. No. Bobwhite: was confirmed breeding in Mt. Kisco in June. First in West in many, many years. Wild Turkey: continues to inc in Dutch. Four obs 8 Nov at Amenia, and two at Pleasant Valley 19 Nov. Sora: only report, one imm at Iona I 6 Sept. Am. Coot: excellent movement this fall. More than 400 were at CB 13 Nov, and 400 at EP 2 Nov. 200 were still at EP 28 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: an adult at Amawalk 8 Sept was joined by five more 9 Sept. More than 70 were at WSF 12 Sept, and five were last reported there 20 Nov. Black-bellied Plover: at WSF from 22 Sept-7 Nov, max six 24 Oct. A breeding-plumaged adult was at Amawalk 17 Aug. Com. Snipe: only report four 1 Nov at Travers Marsh, Dutch. Pectoral Sandpiper: more reports than in recent years. Obs in N. West from 16 Aug thru 3 Nov. Also in small numbers at Ashokan from Sept thru 2 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: exc numbers from Aug thru early Nov in West, plus several reports of other birds in Oct, and seven near Goshen 20 Oct. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** an adult and an imm were at Amawalk 3-7 Sept. Dunlin: only report five at Croton Pt 31 Oct. Stilt Sandpiper: one at Amawalk 5 Sept and another there 15 Sept. One at Washington L Newburgh 18 Oct and two there the next day. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** one at Amawalk 15-20 Aug and another there 6 Sept. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** only reports two 4 Sept and two 10-12 Oct at WSF. Sanderling: one would expect them to be reported more frequently along the Hudson, but the only report was three at Kingston Point 4 Sept. Am. Avocet: what appears to be a new record for eastern Westchester was a single bird preening at the lake at PL 6 Sept. Terns: none reported from the lower Hudson where they are usually obvious. Only report was of one Com.

Tern flying around Purdy's Sta, West during the last week of Aug. **ICELAND GULL**: one at Ulst landfill, Rt 9W, Town of Ulster 25 Nov (Bob Terwilliger). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: an adult at Croton Point 31 Oct and again 14 Nov. On 6 Nov one returned to Harbor I Park, Mamaroneck for the third year. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: the fall visitor at Rockland L since 1978 failed to appear this year. Bonaparte's Gull: only report inland was one at Newburgh 15 Nov.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one late bird at MC 8 Oct was a good find. Snowy Owl: what with the dearth of visitors from the north, two of this species were not expected. One sat on a chimney in P'kpsie the entire day of 19 Nov and was pictured in the local newspaper, but no birders were notified in time to see it. Another was at Vista, West 29 Nov (Kaye Anderson). Com. Nighthawk: the good flight of Aug continued into Sept, the last being three very late birds over Monroe 10 Oct (L Holland). Max were 118 over MC 11 Sept and more than 200 over Middletown 31 Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: never many and even less this period. An adult with three young were at Red Oaks Mill daily during Sept. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continued its slow increase in all areas. FM is now reporting them from the Ashokan area where they were not reported before. They are also being reported from three new areas in Dutch.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: numbers good, single bird reported at MC 4, 5 and 18 Sept; two at Rye Nature Center 11 Sept. One was at Bashakill 4 Sept and another at Iona I 11 Sept. Four were at Bashakill 7-16 Sept. Olive-sided Flycatcher: exc late Aug and early Sept movement especially in the valley of the Bashakill; last there one 24 Sept. Horned Lark: numbers down, very few reports thru end of period. Tree Swallow: exc movement thru Sept into Oct, and then an abrupt end. FG reports fewer young raised in bluebird boxes in central Dutch. Barn Swallow: one at Croton Point the late date of 14 Nov. Blue Jay: one of the largest movements ever reported along the Hudson in late Sept. Estimates of 1,500 to more than 5,000 per hour moving south in the period 22-26 Sept. **COM. RAVEN**: in almost 30 years of watching, the MPHWS had its first on 22 Oct (Judy Cinquina). Am. Crow: for the second year more than 3,000 are roosting near Nanuet. By the end of the period more than 1,500 were roosting at the Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center in P'kpsie. Fish Crow: two were heard at the Middletown roost during the period, most uncommon away from the Hudson. Red-breasted Nuthatch: back to the low numbers of a few years ago, very few reports. Brown Creeper: an unusual concentration of six at Croton Point 21 Nov. Winter Wren: always a joy to find. One was found on and off thru Sept and Oct in the Bashakill. Another was at Cruger's I 11 Nov. Carolina Wren: never many, and what few we had were even further reduced by last April's blizzard. Only a few reported, mostly along the Hudson. Golden-crowned Kinglet: numbers up, best numbers the last week of Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: small bands of six or seven along the Hudson in late Nov. Water Pipit: first 15 Sept at Stewart Airport thru 7 Nov at WSF. Max about 100 at WSF 24 Oct. Am. Robin: of interest was a nightly roost at Purchase in late Oct attracting more than 20,000. Another 200 were found in the Newburgh area 2 Oct, and more than 300 were feeding on honeysuckle at the WKNY tower in Kingston 12 Sept. Wood Thrush: gone by last week of Sept. Hermit Thrush: an exc year. BSe found them on 24 days 7 Sept-4 Nov. Max all in the Bashakill, were 18 5 Oct, 21 7 Oct, and 19 on 19 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: also a good year. Obs on nine days 7-28 Sept. Max five 16 Sept and again 20 Sept at Bashakill. Gray-cheeked Thrush: three at Bashakill 11 Sept and one there 2 Oct. E. Bluebird: in spite of the April blizzard which killed off many birds, FG came up with more than 260 fledglings in the mid-Dutch trail she has created. The species is found regularly in Dutch and in all the surrounding counties. Cedar Waxwing: AB reports more than a thousand feeding on grapes and honeysuckle near the WKNY tower in Kingston 17 Oct. **NO. SHRIKE**: Chuck Harten found one at Piermont Pier 20 Nov and Edward Pollock saw the same bird one hour later; first record for Rock since 1978. Loggerhead Shrike: one at Galeville Airport 7 Nov was still there at this writing in late Dec.

**VIREOS-WARBLED**: White-eyed Vireo: only report was of one imm along the Mine Rd, USMA 26 Sept. Solitary Vireo: BSe observed this species on 15 occasions 11 Sept-3 Nov, mainly in the Bashakill; max there was ten 2 Oct. Philadelphia Vireo: two at MC 11

Sept; two at MC 12 Sept and one Iona I 18 Sept. Single birds were found by BSe at the Bashakill 11, 16, 20, 24 Sept and 7 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: an imm was found at a bird bath in Red Oaks Mill on the late date of 24 Sept and again 29 Sept. "LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: one Bashakill 5 Sept. Tennessee Warbler: max about 30 birds along River Rd., Cornwall Bay. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: one at Croton Point 21 Nov and another at a field in Purchase 4 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: BSe found them in good numbers 4-28 Sept with ten to 15 birds obs on several of those days. Black-throated Green Warbler: an excellent fall movement; better than spring. Blackpoll Warbler: BSe reported only one at Warren Sod Farm 10 Oct; this after almost daily birding thru the period. Palm Warbler: last Galeville Airport 14 Nov. Connecticut Warbler: one at Rye Nature Center 4 Sept, one 5 Sept and another 8 Sept, both in Pleasant Valley. One at Red Oaks Mill 4 Oct, one Bashakill 5 Sept and another there 7 Oct. Mourning Warbler: one Rye Nature Center 4 Sept and another at Red Oaks Mill 15 Sept. Yellow-breasted Chat: missed in Dutch, only report one Iona I 11 Sept. Canada Warbler: eight were at MC 4 Sept and gone by mid-month. Am. Redstart: almost abundant at times, more than 30 at MC 4 Sept.

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROW: Scarlet Tanager: lower than most years. DICKCISEL: only report an imm female at Dobbs Ferry 5 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: more than 30 at WSF 3 Oct, and more than 250 there 15 Oct. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two at MC 18 Sept. Vesper Sparrow: one at WSF 6 Sept and another on Mine Rd USMA 23 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: first report one Mine Rd, USMA 18 Sept. Am. Tree Sparrow: first report two Mine Rd USMA 23 Oct; very early. Numbers well up by end of period. Chipping Sparrow: one adult at Croton Point 14 Nov. White-crowned Sparrow: numbers low; only one to two reported by most observers. White-throated Sparrow: first at Bashakill 11 Sept. Lincoln's Sparrow: more than usual, mentioned in seven out of 16 reports. First at MC 5 Sept, and there again 18 Sept; last at PL 24 Oct. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: only report two at Croton Point 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: good numbers at end of period. First 30 bathing at Ashokan 30 Oct; inc to 50 there by 6 Nov. Two reports from Dutch during Nov. Red-winged Blackbird: numbers low compared to most years, only real numbers at Cruger's I 10 Oct where "thousands" were found roosting. Rusty Blackbird: a pair foraging on the edge of Rockland L 16 Nov, and from seven to 16 were at Stissing 4-20 Nov where they winter every year. Seven were feeding at the WKNY tower in Kingston 31 Oct. Com. Grackle: usual spectacular movement obs; max over 2,000 passing Hook Mt 20 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: five in Middletown 30 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: almost none. A few reports observed one or two for the season. Max was a flock of 22 at Monticello 14 Oct. This was the only report of double digit numbers.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The uneventful fall weather contributed strongly to a rather quiet fall migration. September was dry with temperatures staying pretty much near normal. The average temperature for September was within a tenth of a degree of normal but the total rainfall of 1.77 inches was only 53% of the normal rainfall. There were very few fronts accompanied by the northwest winds that usually produce the best fall birding along the coast. Weak fronts on 3-6 September and 17 September produced some movement of birds, including a bit of a hawk flight along the barrier beaches on the latter day. October continued in the same vein as September. October averaged only two tenths of a degree below normal and its

total rainfall of only 2.31 inches, approximately half an inch below normal, lead to early suggestions of a return of last year's drought warnings. A cool front moving into the area 1-2 October brought the last sizeable shorebird movement of the fall as well as a modest hawk flight to the beaches. Another front, 16-17 October, brought in waterfowl, large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers to the shore and one of the better days for barrier beach hawkwatchers. November continued the dry spell with a total rainfall of 3.44 inches; seven tenths of an inch below normal. November was very mild with the temperature averaging 3.2° above normal. The first frost did not occur until late in the month, 27-28 November. The warm, dry weather produced very little in the way of bird movements. (All weather data from New York City.)

Three hawk watches sent in reports in varying detail. They were virtually unanimous in their descriptions of a slow fall migration. George Bouquio reported that the Moses Mountain, Staten Island watch had its least productive year since its inception in 1979. He did report that coverage was less this year than in the past but hawkwatchers along the barrier beaches reported similar results. Hannah Richard reported that the Breezy Point Raptor Banding Station banded only one-third the number of hawks it had averaged over the last three years. Its total of 121 birds was the lowest since the station started in 1978. The station was manned almost daily from 16 September to 27 October. The total of 1028 hawks seen was less than half that of any of the last three years. The biggest decline was in American Kestrels which dropped from an average of over 1500 in each of the last two years to only 437 this year. One species that did increase was Peregrine Falcon which went from five last year to eleven this year, but still less than the 1979 total of 25. Drew Panko reported on a hawk watch he organized on Fire Island at the eastern end of Robert Moses State Park. He lacked comparable data for previous years but his impression of low numbers of hawks matches that of other observers. The good news was that he too reported good numbers of Peregrines, with a total of 31 seen between 27 September and 17 October. He found a difference in the distribution of species passing during the day with most Sharp-shinned Hawks passing before noon and most Merlins after.

Tom Davis continued his shorebird survey at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge till 24 October (see the Summer season report). Not too surprisingly the total numbers of shorebirds dropped off considerably after the end of August. The variety, however, stayed high thru most of September. Twenty-seven species on 18 September matched the greatest variety found on any day in August though the total of approximately 1500 individuals was only a bit over a third of the peak August numbers. Numbers and variety dropped off rapidly after that, with only 245 individuals of 16 species there 26 September. The previously mentioned movement of 1-2 October increased the daily total to 754 individuals of 22 species on 3 October. Variety and numbers of individuals declined after that date, though numbers of birds took a big upsurge with an influx of Dunlins at the end of October. There were about 1300 Dunlins on 23 October, the day before Tom ended the survey.

The short list of rarities is: Greater White-fronted Goose, Yellow Rail, Great Skua, California Gull and Northern Wheatear.

Abbreviations: NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay

Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers.

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**LOONS—DUCKS:** The most notable thing about loons and grebes in this fall's reports is that only one observer mentioned them. Single Red-throated Loons were noted flying over the Hudson R at Riverdale 7 and 22 Oct (WS). A lone Horned Grebe was seen flying south over the Hudson R at Inwood Pk 7 Nov, in the company of a single White-winged Scoter (WS). These were the only reports received concerning loons and grebes. They may have been in low numbers this fall, but surely someone else also saw some. Without more reports it is impossible to say anything for sure. Moving offshore now, 10-15 Cory's Shearwaters, 40-50 Greater Shearwaters and 40-50 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were counted on a pelagic trip off Montauk Pt 1 Sept (GSR). There has been such a decrease in interest in pelagic trips by birders that the Federation was forced to cancel a scheduled Nov trip and has announced that it is no longer scheduling pelagic trips. An adult No. Gannet was picked up at Great Kills Beach, SI 13 Oct (M. Sofia); the bird died at the SI zoo shortly thereafter. A subadult photographed on the beach at JBWR 18 Nov was a first record for the refuge (DR). On 17 Nov, 96 No. Gannets were counted flying by RMSP in a half hour (SN). An Ani. Bittern dropped into a backyard in N. Babylon 8 Oct (*vide* FF). The only Least Bittern report received was one found at JBWR 11 Sept (RA, GSR). Returning to backyard lists, a late lingering Cattle Egret stopped in at a backyard in Brookhaven 17 Nov and again 27 Nov, a near record late date (K. Madsen). Two Glossy Ibises lingered at JBWR at least to 7 Nov (JD). A Tundra Swan was at Hempstead Lake SP 12 Nov (R. Kurtz); the high count for the species was six adults and one imm at Hook Pd 27 Nov (RA, GSR). A free-flying, adult GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was at the lake in Prospect Pk from mid-Nov to at least 28 Nov (JY). Small flocks of 35-60 Snow Geese were noted from various LI localities from late-Oct to mid-Nov. Wood Ducks are rare along the outer barrier beaches but one was found at RMSP by hawkwatchers 16 Oct (DP). A concentration of 41 Wood Ducks was at Van Cortlandt Pk 27 Oct, fewer than last year (WS). Four to five Eurasian Wigeons were reported this fall: one or two at JBWR from 2 Oct thru the period (mob); singles at Willow Pd, Hewlett Harbor 30 Oct, where one was found last fall (SBD); Kaler's Pd 14 Nov (J. Ruscica) and Hook Pd 27 Nov (RK). Four Canvasbacks arrived at JBWR 17 Oct in the wake of one of the few fronts of the fall with NW winds (THD). On 29 Nov a male Tufted Duck was found at the Central Pk reservoir, where they have been almost regular for the last few winters (LP). An imm male Com. Eider and two male and a female King Eider were at Montauk Pt 27 Nov (GSR, RA). Two male Harlequin Ducks were at Montauk 16-27 Nov (PG, *et al.*). Along with the Canvasbacks mentioned above, ten Buffleheads arrived at JBWR 16 Oct (THD). The first Hooded Mergansers reported were two pairs at Hempstead Lk SP 11 Oct (SBD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** The front of 16-17 Oct brought six Turkey Vultures to the otherwise bored hawkwatchers at Moses Mtn, SI on 17 Oct (R. Clermont, GB). Three Bald Eagles were reported this fall: an imm at JBWR 6 Sept (C & D Lynch), a bird of unreported age at RMSP 5 Oct (C. Safina, SN), and in the "I wish I'd been there" category, an imm at Eastport, LI 22 Nov which at times was perched in the same tree with an imm Golden Eagle (RA, GSR). The northwest winds of 17 Sept produced 167 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 120 Am. Kestrels moving along the beach at RMSP (SN, FF). The only Cooper's Hawk reports received, away from the shore hawk watches, were singles at Riverdale 12 Sept (WS) and Hempstead Lk SP 11 Oct (SBD). A No. Goshawk was seen sporadically in Nov at the High Rock Conservation Center, SI (H. Fischer) and an imm was at Van Cortlandt Pk 25 Nov (WS). No reports of Rough-legged Hawks were received. The Fire I hawkwatchers reported a high count of 949 Am. Kestrels and 47 Merlins 2 Oct (DP). The high count of Peregrine Falcons reported was seven in three hours at RMSP 7 Oct (FF, SN); two were reported the same day by the Breezy Point raptor banders/watchers (HR). A YELLOW RAIL was an excellent find at E. Patchogue 23 Oct (AC). As further proof, if any were needed, that rails can show up any-

where, a Virginia Rail was found wandering around *inside* a health food store at 69th St. and Columbus Ave. in Manhattan 19 Oct (PC). The only Sora reported was an imm at VanCortlandt Pk 3 Oct (WS). Fifty Com. Moorhens, mostly imms, were at the Goethals Bridge Pd, SI 6 Sept (GB). The high count of Lesser Golden-Plovers was approximately 200 at Grumman airfield, Manorville 11 Sept (RA, GSR); a lone bird lingered at Heckscher SP thru much of Nov to 26 Nov (R. Nichols, FF). An Am. Avocet frequented JBWR from late Aug to 2 Oct (THD). Six Whimbrels were at RMSP 23 Sept (FF) and one remained there at least until 22 Oct (DP). A Hudsonian Godwit lingered at JBWR till 7 Nov (DR). A Marbled Godwit was at JBWR 3 Oct (THD), apparently part of an influx of shorebirds following a front with northwest winds on 2 Oct. A late Least Sandpiper was found at JBWR 20 Nov (THD). The high count of White-rumped Sandpipers at JBWR this fall was nine on 3 Oct, no comparison with last year's unprecedented 58 (THD). Single Baird's Sandpipers were reported sporadically at JBWR until 19 Sept. The first Purple Sandpipers of the fall were four at Jones Inlet 9 Nov (SBD). The movement of shorebirds on 2-3 Oct brought 13 Buff-breasted Sandpipers to a sod farm in Riverhead 2 Oct (RA). Two fairly tame Red-necked Phalaropes obliged birders with close views at JBWR 4-6 Sept (mob) and a Wilson's Phalarope turned up there 9 Oct (THD). A Pomarine Jaeger was found on a sand dune near the inlet at Mecox 4 Sept; the bird was evidently not oiled or injured in any way because it flew off with no apparent difficulty (GSR). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen flying over the ocean off Montauk village on the somewhat late date of 27 Nov (RA, GSR). An even later, but unidentified jaeger was seen at Montauk Pt 4 Dec (SN). A GREAT SKUA was reported by an observer familiar with the species, flying over the beach at Ocean Bay Pk, Fire I on the morning of 25 Sept; there were a number of gulls and jaegers in view at the time for comparison (PC). Over 700 Laughing Gulls were noted at JBWR 16 Oct (THD). The only report of a Com. Black-headed Gull received was that of an adult seen from a boat just off Montauk harbor 5 Sept (AC). A sub-adult CALIFORNIA GULL, found in the company of Ring-billed Gulls at Mecox Bay 1 Sept, was described in detail by the observers and a report submitted to NYSARC (V. Emanuel, P. Matthiessen, S. Lord). This is a first record for the region and only the second for the state, if you count the bird that has been returning to Rockland Lk in Region 9 for the last few years as a single record. An Iceland Gull of the "Kumlien's" (*kumlien*) race returned for the sixth consecutive year to the vicinity of the restaurant at Jones Beach SP 21 Nov (EL). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: adult at Mecox Bay 7 Nov (ROP), sub-adult at Prospect Pk, Brooklyn 28 Nov (JY) and an adult at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI 30 Nov (S. Safire). Over a thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Montauk Pt 27 Nov (RK, RA, GSR). Single Caspian Terns were reported at JBWR 5 Sept (I. Cantor), Oak Beach Marsh 12 Sept (ROP) and RMSP 9 Oct (N. Halmi). The high count of Royal Terns was an incredible 114 birds from Shinnecock Inlet to Georgica Pd on 29 Sept (PAB). Royals lingered into Nov in a number of locations: two at RMSP 3 Nov (SN), two at Mecox Bay 11 Nov (PG) and two at Shinnecock 14 Nov (L. Merryman *vide* FF). Three Com. Terns were still at the Montauk harbor 16 Nov (PG). No Black Terns were reported; surely someone saw some! The only alcid reported was a Dovekie, one mile off Riis Pk 30 Oct (*vide* THD).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Owls seem to have been in short supply this fall with only three species reported. A Snowy Owl was at Cutchogue 19 Nov (P. Stoutenberg). Single Long-eared and No. Saw-whet Owls were found in the Cedar Beach pine groves 7 Nov (FF). The same day JBWR's first Saw-whet of the season was found (DR). One observer felt that Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce this fall (WS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported sporadically from the outer beaches in Sept and Oct as well as at a few inland areas. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were down according to one observer (WS).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Connetquot R SP 14 Sept (FF). Ten Western Kingbirds were reported from 1 Sept to 28 Nov, almost all of them along the Jones Beach strip. The first was at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI with many E. Kingbirds and other flycatchers (W & N Siebenheller) and the last was near parking field 4 on Jones Beach (SN). As usual, Tree Swallows gathered in flocks of thousands in mid-Sept. One report from a sod farm at Riverhead said that on 14 Sept there were so many Tree Swallows gathered along the dirt road thru the farm, trucks had a hard time getting thru (*vide* RA). Two Cliff

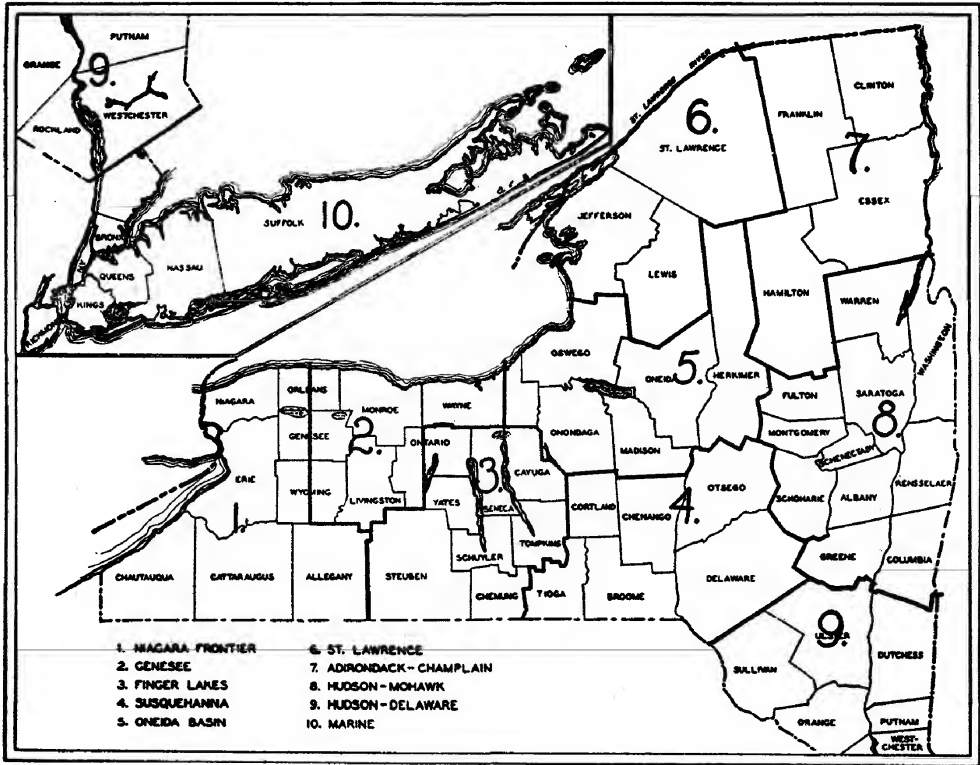
Swallows were seen migrating west over the beach at Shinnecock 4 Sept (GSR). Six Barn Swallows were still at Montauk 6 Nov (ROP) and two were at JBWR 7 Nov (JD). Large numbers of Blue Jays were noted passing over Riverdale on 26 Sept and 2 Oct when 1,402 and 1,582, respectively, were counted in 20 minute periods (WS). In a fall that saw no movements of northern irruptive species, a lone Boreal Chickadee at Fort Tryon Pk, Manhattan 12 Oct was a good find (LP). A big flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted at RMSP 19 Oct, but they were all gone by 21 Oct (FF). Two lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Montauk 6 Nov (ROP, *et al.*). Another excellent find of a relatively quiet fall season was a NORTHERN WHEATEAR, present at Acabonack, LI 13-16 Sept (J. Terry, L. Penny). E. Bluebirds were at Upton and Manorville, where they nest in the summer, into mid-Nov (GSR). No other reports were received for the species. The hawkwatchers at Moses Mtn, SI reported hundreds of Am. Robins in that vicinity in mid-Oct but that the Robins were almost all gone by early Nov (GB). No shrikes were reported this fall.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Philadelphia Vireos were reported at the W. T. Davis Wildlife Refuge, SI on 4 Sept (W & N Siebenheller) and on Jones Beach 12 Sept (EL). A Nashville Warbler was found at Whitestone on the relatively late date of 23 Nov (L. Schore). Black-throated Blue Warblers also lingered into Nov with two males at RMSP 7 Nov (R. Laskowski) and one still there 9 Nov (FF). There was a big flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers along the Jones Beach strip the weekend of 16-17 Oct with over 2,500 estimated there on 17 Oct (WS, PAB). A Pine Warbler was at RMSP 9 Nov (FF) and a Palm Warbler was found at the Goethals Bridge Pd, SI on 21 Nov (GB). A Connecticut Warbler and a female Hooded Warbler were at Buck's Hollow, SI 18 Sept (GB). Mourning Warblers were reported at Central Islip 16 Sept (A. Clerke) and Jones Beach 25 Sept (GSR). A female Hooded Warbler was at JBWR on the amazingly late date of 7 Nov (DR). Only one report of a Yellow-breasted Chat was received, 4 Sept in Riverdale, perhaps bearing out the observer's feeling that the species was scarce this fall (WS). Was this secretive species really as scarce as this lone report would appear to indicate or are observers just reporting them less?

**TANAGERS-HOUSE SPARROWS:** A Scarlet Tanager was found at Willow Lake on the near record late date of 14 Nov (GT). Also late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Woodmere 14-15 Nov (R. Sloss). Five Blue Grosbeaks were reported: two at Montauk 24 Sept (J. Ash) and a single bird at RMSP the same day (RK) as well as singles at RMSP (WS, PAB) and Willow Lake (GT) on 17 Oct. Two Dickcissels were at Jones Beach 11 Sept (EL) and a single at Fire I on 4 Oct (DP). A Rufous-sided Towhee of the western "Spotted" (*arcticus*) race was found at Maspeth 28 Nov (Mr. & Mrs. Polgar, *fide* THD); there are only a handful of records for this race in our region. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported: 19 Sept at Jones Beach (L. Feldman, EL, *et al.*), 2 Oct at JBWR (THD) and 17 Oct at RMSP (WS, PAB). Very few Vesper Sparrows were reported, with singles mentioned at RMSP 24 Sept, Heckscher SP 26 Oct (both FF) and Tobay 31 Oct (A. Clerke). The only Lark Sparrow of the fall was found at the West End, Jones Beach 19 Sept by birders who had gone there in search of the Clay-colored found there earlier that day (W. Lamoureux, *et al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Tobay on the somewhat late date of 31 Oct (L & L Feldman). It was not a big year for White-crowned Sparrows and only small numbers were reported. An early Dark-eyed Junco was at Jones Beach 12 Sept (EL). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were three at the West End of Jones Beach 28 Nov (SBD). The high count of Snow Buntings was 87 at RMSP 8 Nov (SN). Orchard Orioles were among our earliest fall migrants so one at Jones Beach 19 Sept is relatively late (EL, SBD, *et al.*). A No. Oriole of the western "Bullock's" (*bullockii*) race was found at Jones Beach 24 Oct (A. Wollin). Winter finches were very nearly absent this fall. The only reports were: Purple Finch—five at RMSP 22 Oct (SN) and three at Babylon 10 Nov (FF); Red Crossbill—one at Jones Beach on the surprisingly early date of 18 Sept (EL, R. Soffer); Pine Siskin—one at Jones Beach 19 Sept (EL, SBD, *et al.*); and that's it for winter finches. Under the new taxonomic sequence House Sparrow ends the list of species that can be expected in our region. No observers mentioned House Sparrows in their reports but I can assure you, by the simple expedient of looking out my window, that they are in no immediate danger!

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,  
Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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